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Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

No. 1914.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1853.

REVIEWS.

History of the Insurrection in China, with Notices of the Christianity, Creed, and Proclamations of the Insurgents. By MM. Callery and Yvan. Translated from the French, with a Supplementary Chapter. By John Oxenford. Smith, Elder, and Co.

THE latest accounts from China report the continued success of the insurgents, and there is now little doubt of the ultimate overthrow of the Tartar dynasty, and the inauguration of a new era in the history of the celestial empire. Although the rebellion is already of three years' standing, it is only recently that the movement has assumed an importance to command the attention of foreign nations. The capture of Nankin, the second city of the empire, the spread of the insurrection into remote provinces, and the prostration of the military and still more of the financial resources of the imperial court, give every token of the triumph of the insurgents. Meanwhile all who are interested either in commerce or in Christianity, watch with anxiety the progress of a struggle, the issue of which must essentially modify the relations of every other nation with the Chinese empire. The reports which have hitherto reached Europe have been fragmentary and uncertain, and of the early events of the revolution we possess little authentic information. Now that matters are approaching a crisis, the attention of the British authorities has been more roused, and official reports of passing events have been transmitted to this country. The agents of the various missionary societies have also communicated much authentic and valuable intelligence. But for a connected account of the revolution from its commencement we are indebted to the labours of the French authors whose work is now translated by Mr. Oxenford. M. Callery was formerly a missionary, and afterwards interpreter to the French embassy, to which Dr. Yvan was attached as physician. Some of the statements in their work are corrected by more recent information, but on the whole they have presented a faithful and animated narrative of the insurrection. A perusal of this work is necessary for intelligently following the reports which are likely for some time to be transmitted by each mail from China.

MM. Callery and Yvan commence their work with a sketch of the condition of China under the late emperor Tao-Kouang, and since the accession of Hiên-foung in 1850. The latter years of Tao-Kouang's reign were prosperous, and under wise counsellors there were symptoms of progress in liberal government, both as regarded home affairs and foreign relations. But a reaction took place as soon as Hiên-foung succeeded to the throne:—

"The accession of Hiên-foung was hailed as an event of great promise. The national party saw in him the regenerator of the old exclusive system. If this party did not hope to see him build the great wall which was now crumbling, it could, at any rate, believe, without excessive vanity, that he would raise a barrier across the river of Canton, and hinder the *fire-ships* of the 'barbarians' from approaching the capital of the two Kouangs. On the other hand, the progressive conservatives hoped that one who was the son of Tao-kouang, and the pupil of Ki-in, would maintain peace with foreigners, and regulate the opium trade, as the English had done in India, the Dutch in Malay, and as the French have done with respect to the sale of two

poisons equally dangerous, alcohol and tobacco; and finally, that the army, the fleet, and the administrative details of the Chinese, would receive those improvements which modern times demanded.

"In monarchical countries—especially where the monarchy is absolute—the beginning of a new reign affords full scope to all sorts of illusions and ambitious dreams. Everybody prepossessed with his own Utopia hopes to see it realized, when a hint from the sovereign will is all that is required for so desirable an end. Hence, during the first days of the reign of Hiên-foung, each of the different parties believed that its own system of politics would be established.

"In the meanwhile the young Emperor lived, surrounded by a troop of flatterers, eunuchs, and concubines, in his immense palace—whose domain is as extensive as one of our cities. He never passed the limits of those gardens, the walks of which are of quartz, sparkling with a thousand colours; and it might be imagined that he was altogether absorbed in those refined luxuries and splendid enjoyments which are concealed in retreats impenetrable to the eyes of the multitude. Politicians began to feel surprised at this long period of inaction; when all of a sudden the thunder broke forth. The absolute power exerted itself at last—the moment of unexpected downfalls, and unlooked-for elevations, had arrived. It was the reactionary party that triumphed."

What the authors in this passage call "the national party" is the Tartar oligarchy, by whom the ancient Chinese have been as effectually repressed as the Saxons in England were in the reigns of the Norman kings. The restoration of the old dynasty of native rulers is a popular expectation, the prevalence of which of late years is mentioned as one of the symptoms of the approaching revolution:—

"The departure from his father's policy was not productive of happiness to the new monarch. Shortly after the victory of the reactionary party, the first intelligence of the revolt of the Kouang-Si was received.

"Precursory symptoms had to some extent announced this insurrection. Marvels preceded realities, and endowed them with a sort of prestige, by giving the rebellion of the Kouang-Si the character of an event predicted by the prophets, and expected by true believers. A report was current among the people that the 48th year of the present cycle, which began in 1851, was the epoch fixed by prophecy for the restoration of the dynasty of Ming. It was added that a sage, who lived under the last emperor of that race, had preserved his standard, and had prophesied that he who unfurled it in the midst of his army would ascend the throne. At the beginning of the insurrection it was affirmed that the rebels marched under this miraculous flag, and the fact was not at all questioned by the people. We have seen with our own eyes many of these sibylline decrees, the obscure phrases of which seem modelled on the verses of Nostradamus and St. Caesarius. The multitude does not believe in the extinction of ancient royal races: it is never certain that their last representative is laid in the tomb. The Portuguese people still expect the return of Don Sebastian, who was killed at the battle of Alcazar-Quivir, three hundred years ago.

"A general uneasiness soon took possession of the public mind. There was a talk of treacherous or corrupt mandarins; the number and importance of secret affiliations were exaggerated; and in several places meetings were held, where the legitimacy of the Tartar dynasty, and the necessity of substituting for it a national dynasty, were publicly discussed."

Of the personal appearance and character of the Emperor the following description is given:—

"The Emperor Hiên-foung is only twenty-two years of age. He is of a middle height, and his form indicates great aptitude for bodily exercises. He is slender and muscular. His face, which indi-

cates a certain degree of resolution, is chiefly characterized by a very high forehead, and by an almost defective obliquity of the eyes. His cheek bones are very prominent, and strongly marked. The space between the eyes is large and flat, like the forehead of a buffalo. Hiên-foung is of a stubborn and credulous disposition. In the midst of the most effeminate luxury he affects severity of morals, and, notwithstanding his youth, he is already married. The Empress is a Tartar princess, with large feet, totally devoid of that delicacy and fragile gracefulness which belong to the small-footed Chinese women. The Emperor loves to see her perform the violent exercises which are the delight of the women of her nation, and she often gallops about with him in the extensive gardens of the palace."

MM. Callery and Yvan then present an account of the reputed chief of the insurgents, Tiên-tê. The most circumstantial details are given, and his portrait forms the frontispiece of the book, but there is some confusion in the history of this personage which requires further elucidation. Mr. Meadows, the British interpreter, in a letter to the consul at Chang-Hai, states that he had heard that Tiên-tê died some years ago, and that he was a lineal descendant of the Mings, the last Chinese native dynasty. His son, Taeping, according to this account, is now the claimant of the throne. We are unable to reconcile this with passages in some of the proclamations where both Taeping and Tiên-tê are spoken of. Possibly Tiên-tê's name may be used by the insurgent chiefs merely to give an air of nationality and patriotism to the movement, as the representative of the Ming dynasty. As to the real leaders and active managers of the insurrection there is less mystery, and some of them have had interviews with the English authorities. From Hong Kong a letter, dated the 7th July, contained this notice of the progress of events, with a letter from Loo, one of the five generals of the insurgent army:—

"The main body of the insurgents still remains at Nankin, Chin-kiang-foo, and on the northern banks of the Yang-tse-kiang. They had taken Tai-ping-foo, a city of great strength to the westward of Nankin. No movement had been made northward, or in the direction of Soochow and Shanghai. The Imperial foreign fleet had returned to Woosung.

"Mr. Taylor, the American missionary, had returned to Shanghai from visiting the insurgent, General Loo, at Chin-kiang-foo, who forwarded him on to Nankin on his expressing a wish to go there. The tents of the Imperial troops were distinctly seen from the walls of that city.

"From all communication hitherto held with the insurgents, they seem friendly to foreigners.

"The following is a letter addressed by General Loo to foreigners, and given to Mr. Taylor:—

"'Loo, the Fifth Arranger of the Forces, attached to the palace of the celestial dynasty of Tai-ping, who have received the command of Heaven to rule the empire, communicates the following information to all his English brethren:—On the first day of the fifth moon (June the 5th), a brother belonging to your honourable nation, named Charles Taylor, brought hither a number of books, which have been received in order. Seeing that the above-named individual is a fellow-worshipper of God (Shang-te), he is, therefore, acknowledged as a brother; the books, likewise, which he has brought agree substantially with our own, so that it appears we follow one and the same road. Formerly, however, when a ship belonging to your honourable nation came hither (the *Hermes*), she was followed by a fleet of impish vessels belonging to the false Tartars: now, also, when a boat from your honourable nation comes among us, the impish vessels of the Tartars again follow in its wake. Considering that your honourable nation is cele-

brated for its truth and fidelity, we, your younger brothers, do not harbour any suspicions. At present both Heaven and men favour our design, and this is just the time for setting up the Chinese, and abolishing the Tartar rule. We suppose that you, gentlemen, are well acquainted with the signs of the times, so that we need not enlarge on that subject; but, while we, on our parts, do not prohibit commercial intercourse, we merely observe that since the two parties are now engaged in warfare, the going to and fro is accompanied with inconvenience; and, judging from the present aspect of affairs, we should deem it better to wait a few months until we have thoroughly destroyed the Tartars, when, perhaps, the subjects of your honourable nation could go and come without being involved in the tricks of these false Tartars. Would it not in your estimation also be preferable? We take advantage of the opportunity to send you this communication for your intelligent inspection, and hope that every blessing may attend you. We also send a number of our own books, which please to circulate among you."

The reference in this letter to the sacred books leads us to notice the most remarkable fact in the whole history of the movement, its connexion with the diffusion of Christian truth, and the probable result in the overthrow of paganism and idolatry. We quoted last week (*ante*, p. 916) part of a letter from the Rev. Mr. Burns, a devoted missionary, and an able Chinese scholar, who, after examining the books received from the rebel camp, says, "These books exhibit much acquaintance with the leading principles of divine truth, although accompanied with some things that are erroneous and dangerous, and they are prepared in such a manner as to show that there are persons among these insurgents who have both thought and felt on the great subjects of Scripture teaching. It also appears, as was before rumoured, that the principal if not the only source from which this knowledge has been originally derived is the labours of Dr. Gutzlaff, or of Chinese connected with him." It is gratifying to find MM. Callery and Yvan fully confirming this opinion, and also bearing honourable testimony to the zealous and effective labours of Dr. Gutzlaff. After quoting some of the proclamations, the authors remark:—

"Even in the form of the proclamation of Tien-Kio, it may be perceived that a new regenerative element has penetrated those obscure retreats where projects of national independence are formed—we mean the Christian element. The authors of the proclamation of Young-Gan-Tcheou talk of 'decrees of Heaven.' They have, they say, prostrated themselves before the Supreme Being; after having learned to adore God, they have laboured to save the people from calamities. These are forms of expression unknown to the idolaters of China, and foreign to the language of Catholics. The honour of introducing them into China belongs to the Protestants; and if we may trust report, it appears that a native Protestant holds an elevated rank, and exercises a high authority among the insurgents. This Protestant is, we are assured, a convert of Gutzlaff, the last secretary-interpreter of Hong-Kong.

"M. Gutzlaff has now been dead some years. He was born in Pomerania, and quitted his native country very young. He did not in the least resemble the fair sons of Germany, whose florid complexion is kept up by draughts of beer. He was an intelligent man, endowed with a great aptitude for acquiring languages; and had no sooner entered a country than he spoke the idiom of its inhabitants. At the outset of his peregrinations he had been a Lutheran missionary; next he entered the service of the Bible Societies; and, at last, by his great familiarity with the Chinese language, he obtained the situation of first interpreter to the English Government, a place to which splen-

did appointments are attached. If we can trust certain malicious informants, the Rev. Dr. Gutzlaff travelled for a long time, with a Bible in one hand and a yard measure in the other, distributing Bibles and selling cloth, on the most equitable terms; and that, in this fashion, he went through Java, Siam, the Archipelago of Chusan, and the islets in the neighbourhood of Corea and Japan. Be that as it may, he has left us accounts of his travels, which, on the whole, are very pleasant reading.

"M. Gutzlaff had the art of inspiring the Chinese people with the greatest confidence. He was of a middle stature, and tolerably stout; his prominent eyes sparkled beneath thick lashes, which were overshadowed by long black and bushy eye-brows. His face, with features the reverse of angular, and its light olive complexion, seemed to belong to that variety of the human race which we call the Mongol. In his Chinese dress, he was so exactly like a native, that he could have gone through the streets of the walled city of Canton, without being recognised."

It is hardly worth while noticing the actual creed of the insurgent chiefs, which contains, as Mr. Burns remarks, "some things that are erroneous and dangerous," but when so much use has been made of the fragments of revealed truth which had fallen into their hands, we may hope for greater and better results, when the sacred scriptures shall be circulated throughout the empire, and true statements of the Christian faith brought before the people.

In estimating the probable issue of the war, the financial difficulties of the emperor must be taken into account. These difficulties are remarkably shown in the following proclamation, which also affords curious glimpses of the institutions and government of China. It appeared in the official gazette of the empire, and is thus translated by MM. Callery and Yvan:—

"The Emperor having charged the Comptroller of the Imperial Household, the Ministers of the Cabinet, the Members of the Council, and the Board of Revenue, to consider the means for raising money to support the war against the rebels, these high functionaries have drawn up the following project of law, which received the sanction of the vermillion pencil.

"1. The princes, the nobles, and the high functionaries, both civil and military, are called upon to contribute, each according to his means.

"2. The academicians of the Imperial family will be authorized to purchase government situations.

"3. The academicians and the censors are at liberty to buy the offices of judges, treasurers, and intendants of provinces.

"4. Every titular holder of an office can, in consideration of a certain sum, be exempted from completing the time which he would regularly be bound to devote to the duties of the situation.

"5. The district intendants and prefects can, in consideration of a sum of money, be exempted from the regular obligation of returning to Peking, when their term of office has expired.

"6. The cabinet secretaries can, in consideration of a sum of money, be exempted from the five years of service regularly required before they can obtain promotion.

"7. All functionaries in the capital, who have passed the examination of the first degree, and are waiting for appointments, can obtain them by purchase.

"8. All functionaries can purchase honorary titles for a relation, during absence caused by sickness, mourning, or otherwise.

"9. A son can purchase for his father a rank superior to his own. This was not allowed under the old regulations.

"10. Functionaries who have been dismissed can recover their rank by purchase.

"11. Functionaries who have retired can recover their rank by purchase.

"12. Functionaries can purchase titles for their relations.

"13. All those who have the [academical] degrees of Kiu-jen, Kouang-souen, and Kièn-souen, can purchase their admission into the royal college of Peking.

"14. The peacock's feather can be obtained by purchase.

"15. All the mandarins of the first or second rank, who have been degraded, can recover the ball by purchase.

"16. All public functionaries condemned to exile or other punishment, can obtain a dispensation for money.

"17. Every functionary transported to I-Li for any crime, can obtain a dispensation for money.

"18. The Government will consider the pecuniary rewards given to the troops by private individuals as so many loans to itself, and loans may also be effected by commercial paper.

"19. The money deposited in the Nei-ou-fou is to be sent to the army as a reserve fund.

"20. The Government will issue paper-money, as in the times of the troubles caused by the barbarians (the English), on the banks of the Tche-Kiang.

"21. Three months will be allowed for collecting arrears of taxes.

"22. Offices of exchange will be established on account of the Government.

"23. Public tenders will be received for the farming of the gold and silver mines in the Je-Hol, in the provinces, in Eastern Turkistan, and in the I-Li.

"Pekin Gazette, 12th Nov. 1852."

While tracing the history of the insurrection, down to the taking of Nankin, the authors introduce occasional notices of the country, with its customs and institutions, having interest independent of passing events. Of the city of Nankin they give a graphic description from their personal acquaintance with the place:—

"This city, which contains more than 500,000 inhabitants, was in the time of the Mings—that ancient dynasty which Tien-tê professes to represent, and wishes to restore—the capital of all China. The space enclosed within its walls is at least three times greater than that of Paris, but large cultivated spots are found in the midst of its streets, and grass grows upon the quays lately bordered by a triple row of vassels.

"Nankin is situated on an immense plain, intersected by canals as numerous as those which traverse the human body. In the midst of fertile fields, innumerable rivulets and streams of navigable water are perpetually crossing each other. The banks are planted with willows and bamboos, with straight stalks and dark foliage. It is on the plains of the province of Nankin that that yellowish cotton is grown, which, when woven, is exported in such enormous quantities. Here also is reaped the greater part of the rice which is consumed throughout the empire. The Kiang-Nan, or province of Nankin, is the richest jewel in the crown of the 'Son of Heaven.'

"Nothing in Europe can give an idea of the fruitfulness of this province—neither the plains of Beauce nor the plains of Lombardy, nor even that richest of lands, Flanders. In the Kiang-Nan the fields are covered with crops twice a year, and produce fruit and vegetables without cessation. On the borders of the arable land the most delicious vegetables in the world are produced. The pè-tai, a cabbage, which is between a lettuce and the *cabus*, bitter mustard, water-melons, potatoes, and the hundred species of haricots produced in the Celestial Empire.

"We have been fortunate enough to sit under the shadow of the orchards which border the Ou-Soung, one of the numerous veins which fertilize the province of the Kiang-Nan; we have plucked with our hands those pulpy jujubes which travellers often take for grapes; pomegranates with transparent grains; monstrous peaches, by the side of which the finest kinds of Montreuil would appear

like wild fruit, and diospyros as large as tomatos. We have seen scarlet pheasants and their brethren with mother-o'-pearl plumage running freely about the furrows.

"This province maintains 28,000,000 inhabitants; ten times as many as Belgium, ten times as many as Holland, and rather more than the whole of France. Nevertheless, our worthy countrymen, who fancy that our nation is the most rich and powerful, also imagine that their country is the most populous in the universe."

"Nankin is built in the water. It is a city like Rotterdam, surrounded by fertile marshes and waters abounding in fish. Towards the south the river suddenly widens, and forms a kind of lake scattered over with innumerable islets. Here, under clumps of trees, are hidden the villas of the mandarins. In these mysterious retreats they conceal from the envious glances of the vulgar their aviaries stocked with pale birds, reared in the cages of Sou-Tcheou-Fou, that city of delights of which a Chinese proverb says, 'In the other world there is paradise; in this there is Sou-Tcheou-Fou.'"

"These poetical women, these Aspasias of the East, compose charming verses in their own naïf and impassioned language; but the jealousy of their masters only allows them to sing their compositions on these echoless banks. On the indolent waters of the lake, as well as on the more rapid waters of the river, sail the most elegant vessels in the world. Thousands of junks bear to the extremities of the Empire all the produce and manufactures of the country."

"We have already said that Nankin has declined from its ancient splendour. The ramparts of the old city form so vast a circuit, that from the summit of the hills the eye cannot distinguish the ruined walls. The modern city, which nevertheless contains 500,000 souls, looks like a mere village compared to the immense city whose boundary walls are alone left standing."

"In the centre of the modern city stands that tower of nine stories, which is almost as familiar to the citizen of Paris as the yellowish web out of which he makes his summer pantaloons."

"The pagoda of nine stories is an old monument of the time of the Mings. We shall give a description of it in the course of this narrative. It is before the walls of Nankin that the five united kings are now encamped. Troy is thus defended by a formidable garrison. But old Priam is dead, and Hector is at Pekin!"

And afterwards contrasting Nankin with the capital of the empire:—

"As for Pekin, the city of the Government, it has no voice whatever in matters of taste and pleasure, but merely enjoys a monopoly of ennui. Nankin is the residence of the *littérati*, the men of science, the dancers, the painters, the antiquaries, the jugglers, the physicians, the poets, and the courtisans of celebrity. In this charming city are held schools of science, art, and—pleasure; for here pleasure itself is at once an art and a science. Malte Brun asserts that in this learned city there are even an *Institut* and an academy of medicine. None but a geographer could spread such a calumny; at Nankin there is neither an academy nor academicians."

The overland mail which has this week reached London with advices from Hong-Kong to the 23rd of July, contains intelligence, the substance of which appears in the following extract from a private letter:—

"News is now coming in of new insurrections in all parts of the empire, and the fall of the old dynasty is become hardly a matter of doubt. With a body of religious enthusiasts, part of whose creed is war to the death, in the heart of the country, and engaging all the feeble energies of the Government, and insurrections under other banners in nearly every province south of the Yellow River, it cannot long survive. The ultimate result is a question only to be decided by time, but the superior organization, poor as it is, of the Christian

rebels, and their more determined spirit, may justly give us some hope that in the end they may prevail over their competitors for empire. They still remain in position at Nankin and Chin-kiang-foo, and, beyond some skirmishes with the Chinese foreign ships, in which they are uniformly successful, nothing new has occurred."

The supplementary chapter, by the translator, is compiled from the most recent notices of Chinese affairs in the public journals. There are various statements in the work of MM. Callery and Yvan, which may turn out to be erroneous, and a more clear and connected history of the revolution may hereafter be compiled with additional materials, but at present it is the best account we possess of one of the most remarkable events that have taken place in the history of the world.

Memoirs of Mary, the Young Duchess of Burgundy, and her Contemporaries. By Louisa Stuart Costello. Bentley.

AMONG the historical monuments of the ancient city of Bruges the most remarkable is the magnificent mausoleum of Mary of Burgundy. It is equally wonderful as a work of art, and interesting for the events which it serves to recal to memory. The mausoleum is one blaze of gilding and enamel, covered with figures and devices, and on the dark coloured tomb is a full-length effigy of the Princess, said to present an exact resemblance. It was executed by the most celebrated artists of the time, and is an admirable work in its general design and ornamental details. But to the intelligent traveller the monument is more interesting from the historical associations which it suggests:—

"Nothing occurs more romantic in the history of Europe than that of Mary of Burgundy, from her cradle to her grave, a space of only twenty-five years: her glorious girlhood, surrounded by all the luxuries of the world, all the splendour and enjoyment that wealth could procure or a proud father gather together to adorn his greatest treasure; her womanhood, when, placed by his love and ambition on a pedestal, he commanded all the princes of Europe to bow before her shrine—the troops of adorners who obeyed the summons, including the brothers of the Kings of France and England, the brother of the fair and envied Queen of England, the Dauphin of France, and the son of the Emperor of Germany; besides these came Counts and Dukes, powerful and wealthy and distinguished, all eager to possess the richest and most beautiful heiress of the age."

"Then follow her reverses: the awful fall of the great hero, Charles the Bold, her father—his ruin, his death, and the destruction of his army; her orphan state, her grief, her destitution; the persecutions she suffered from her triumphant enemies and her revolted subjects; her captivity, her tears, her wandering in the streets with dishevelled hair, her fainting, covered with the blood of her only friends, at the foot of a scaffold. Her rescue by the most gallant and handsome prince of his time; her marriage, and the blissful period of her union with the tenderest of husbands—their mutual affection, their satisfied and adoring subjects, their beautiful children. The victories of Maximilian, the discomfiture of Louis of France, their triumphs and content—all to finish with the fatal hunting-match, which promised pleasure and ended in despair, the death of the young Duchess, and the extinction of the sovereignty of Burgundy."

"These events are full of the most exciting interest, and, grouped around them like the bronze multitude which surrounds the tomb of Maximilian, stand the other actors in this drama:—

"Louis the Eleventh, the Mephistopheles of the fifteenth century."

"Charles le Téméraire, the Napoleon of his time—grasping all, daring all, winning all; yet ruined by that last most ambitious venture, which he expected would subjugate Europe to his sway."

"Edward the Fourth of England, bold and sensual, weak and turbulent."

"The discrowned, saintly Henry, and the bold and wandering Margaret of Anjou. The restless Warwick, and the fickle Clarence."

"The haughty Duke Francis of Brittany, and his protégé Henry of Richmond, destined to gather the last leaves of the Roses, whose blossoms, instead of adorning gardens in England, had covered tombs."

"The youthful fortunes of the heir of Lorraine, the unexpected conqueror of the greatest warrior of the age."

"All these and more—statesmen, captains, poets, and ministers—figure unceasingly during the twenty-five years of Mary's career, and give life and animation to her biography."

Such is the heroine, and such are the contemporaries, of whom Miss Costello's volume presents the memoirs. Mary, the daughter of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, by Isabelle de Bourbon, was born 19th February, 1456, while Philip the Good, father of Charles, still ruled in his flourishing city of Brussels. About the time of her birth, the Dauphin, son of Charles the Seventh of France, quarrelled with his father, and took refuge at the Court of Burgundy with his uncle. With an account of this Miss Costello commences her narrative, and we quote one of the opening paragraphs as being characteristic of her style, which it is, perhaps, to be regretted, savours more of the fiction writer than of the historian. This romancing is, however, confined to the diction, all the facts of the narrative being derived from authentic sources, and even the conversations being introduced from trustworthy records:—

"There was no cloud in the cheerful sky which shone above the court of Burgundy, at the moment when there appeared suddenly a royal fugitive, imploring hospitality and protection from the generous Duke, and destined to play a conspicuous part in the future fortunes of the illustrious and powerful house of the prince who nobly exercised the rights demanded."

"With a very small retinue, unprovided with money or means, harassed, distressed, full of alarm, and flying with a conviction that his life and liberty were endangered—flying from a justly irritated father and enraged subjects, threatened and hunted and driven to the last stage of destitution—Louis, Dauphin of France, son of Charles the Seventh, that long-struggling monarch, the greatest part of whose dominions were possessed by triumphant strangers—Louis, the most cruel, artful, and unprincipled of princes, but one of the most intelligent and fascinating in manner that then existed—came to throw himself at the feet of his uncle, Philippe of Burgundy."

"Louis had ridden far, over a difficult and dangerous country; he was fatigued in mind and body, and appeared to have lost all the spirit which had formerly animated him for good and for evil, and to be entirely cast down by his ill fortune. He asked for an asylum in humble accents, and begged to be shielded from severity and persecution."

"This was not the first time that Philippe had given hospitality to his nephew, and the prompt kindness with which he now received him was the more remarkable, considering the ill success of his former negotiations in favour of the Dauphin."

Of the quarrel between King Charles and the Dauphin various accounts are given by historians. If the son was undutiful and rebellious, the father had given unusual provocation. The manner in which the Queen, his mother, was neglected for favourites, in particular for Agnes Sorel, is sufficient to account for the hostility of Louis to his father.

He was, besides, kept in indigence and dependence, and at the age of thirty he determined to throw off allegiance. It was while planning open hostility that he repaired to the court of his uncle at Brussels. Here his restless, intriguing spirit stirred up fresh disturbances. He fomented discord between Philip and Charles, hating the latter, and transferring afterwards his hatred to Mary when she inherited her father's possessions. Charles VII. died in July, 1461, and Louis became king of France. With his history the fortunes of the House of Burgundy are connected in the narrative, and the struggle between Louis and Charles the Bold occupies a prominent place in the volume. Without following the course of the history, we present a few extracts from such parts of the work as have separate interest. After the death of Isabelle, Charles the Bold married, in July, 1467, Margaret of York, sister of Edward IV., king of England. Margaret was a patroness of literature and art, and it was by her command that Caxton prepared his first book, which he afterwards printed at Cologne in 1471. Of the state of the arts in Flanders at this period the following account is given:—

"Margaret of York came into Belgium at a happy period, when the arts were flourishing, and a promise of greater things to come excited the genius of the time, encouraged as it was by enlightened sovereigns, amongst whom she was not the least whose countenance and support went far to assist the great undertakings which then began to astonish the world. She found a country where the arts were making rapid progress, and where there was plenty of opportunity for her to exercise that patronage which she was ready from inclination and congenial feeling to extend.

"On their return from the Crusades, the Belgians, who had been much struck in the Levant with the fine tapestry in use amongst their Pagan foes, resolved to attempt a similar manufacture, and in a short time succeeded in eclipsing their originals.

"The tapestry and carpets of Belgium were soon renowned for their richness and beauty, and were in future times sought by pontiffs and kings. Leo the Tenth had the famous tapestry from the cartoons of Raphael, made at Bruxelles, to adorn the Vatican. These twelve superb pieces cost no less a sum than fifty thousand golden crowns.

"The Duke of Mantua sent to Belgium for Flemish artists to execute tapestries for him from the designs of Julio Romano; and it is to Jans, a celebrated tapestry worker of Bruges, that France is indebted for the manufactory of the Gobelins.

"Louis Berken, of Bruges, in 1476, discovered a mode of cutting and polishing diamonds with diamond powder, which the jewellers of Antwerp brought to such perfection, that, up to a very late date, the crown diamonds of princes were confided to their care. The Belgians were also famous then as now for the chimes of their bells, which were renowned throughout Europe.

"So important was the commerce of Belgium in 1486, that it is recorded that on the same day one hundred and fifty foreign vessels were seen together in the basin of Bruges; but afterwards the war which the Flemings imprudently made against Maximilian entirely ruined the trade of this flourishing town, and Antwerp rose as its rival fell.

"Both Philippe le Bon, Charles the Bold, and Marguerite of Austria were great encouragers of music and its professors. The art consequently made great progress in Belgium in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; and not only the chief musicians of France were of Belgian origin, but in Italy their great knowledge improved the music of the Italians. The names have been preserved to our times of Josquin des Prez; of Aubert Ockeragan, of Hainault, celebrated in the days of Louis the Twelfth; of Jean le Teinturier, of Nivelles, who founded a school of music at Naples; of Simon Vander Eycken, of Bruxelles, who was named

master of music at Milan Cathedral; of Cyprien Rorus, of Mechlin, director at Venice; Orland de Lattre, called Orlando di Lasso, of Mons, surnamed the Prince of Musicians; and a host of others who acquired fame and were masters in their art, were all natives of Belgium.

"In the sister art of painting, Jean of Bruges, the famous Van Eyck, was employed with his brother Hubert at the court of Philippe le Bon, where he made his great discovery in oil painting. If he had really imparted the whole of his wonderful secret to his pupils, the connoisseur would have been spared the numerous faded specimens of his period, by the side of which the marvellous brightness of his colouring appears unaccountable after such a lapse of time.

"Others of great genius succeeded, and Gerard Van der Meere, of Ghent, adorned the churches of his native town with the marvels of his pencil; while the inimitable Jean Hemmelinck, of Damme, enriched Bruges with minute groups of surpassing beauty, still forming part of the treasures of that 'quaint old Flemish city,' as if his colours had been stolen from the guardian fairies of some mine of jewels, who had ground them for his use.

"The sister of Van Eyck became distinguished for her powers; and Susan Horebaut, Claire de Keyser, and Anne Smyters, of Ghent, proved, as time wore on, that female talent existed in Belgium in great vigour.

"The lace of Flanders began to be celebrated at a very early period, and everywhere the *Brabandische Spitzen* and *Merletti di Fiandra* were known as the first of their kind.

"The Counts of Flanders had long encouraged letters, and had succeeded in collecting together a large quantity of works, both instructive and learned, from a period as far back as the twelfth century, and the Princes of Burgundy so much augmented and improved the collection, that from that circumstance it has acquired the title of the *Bibliothèque de Bourgogne*, and is a valuable relic, still existing.

"It was said of the library of Philippe le Bon that it was the richest and most extensive then known, and a chronicler of the time records that, 'Notwithstanding he possessed the finest library in the world, he desires so much to extend and improve it, that he has in every country great clerks, orators, translators, and writers, at his own expense, occupying them continually.'

"This was the more worthy of note, as other princes thought themselves rich in a library consisting merely of eight books; as, for instance, that of John the Third, Count of Namur, whose collection was publicly sold in 1429, and was made up of the following curious items:—

"A portable missal; sold for twelve crowns.

"A 'Romance of the Rose,' in parchment; three crowns.

"A book containing part of the *Chronicles of France*; one crown.

"A book called 'The Institute'; one crown.

"A book called 'The Regimen of Princes'; two crowns.

"A book called 'Delle ordine des Jugemens'; two crowns.

"A 'Romance of the Rose,' in paper; eighteen gros.

"A book beginning, 'A ceulx de la Religion'; one crown.

"The discovery of printing changed the whole state of things as regarded literature; and to whichever town of Belgium or Germany the world is indebted for the great citizen who first brought the wonderful art to light, certain it is that from these countries the idea emanated.

"The first book printed in Belgium appeared in 1473, at Alost, when the learned printer Thierry Martens, called the Aldus of the Low Countries, exhibited his powers to the amazement of those who beheld the results."

In the chapter containing the history of the terrible defeat of Charles the Bold and his army by the Swiss at Morat, an account is given of the Burgundian jewels and other spoil which fell into the hands of the con-

querors. It is a curious passage in the history of gems:—

"The largest diamond in the world, priceless and matchless, which Charles usually wore round his neck, and which had once ornamented the crown of the great Mogul, was found in the road, dropped by one of the valets of the Duke, who fled in dismay, scattering his master's jewels in the way, as if to show their worthlessness when compared to the hope of a brief existence. This wonderful jewel was enclosed in a small box adorned with the finest jewels.

"The man who found it, pleased with the box, kept it, but threw the diamond away, considering it only a piece of glass: recollecting however afterwards, that it was likely to possess some value, as it was placed in so pretty a case, he returned to the spot where he had rejected it, and found it lying in the rut of a cart-wheel. He took it to the Curé of Montagni, who, though no greater a connoisseur in precious stones than himself, bought it of him for a crown-piece, and he went away, quite satisfied with himself for having made so good a bargain.

"The magnificent tent of the Duke was all resplendent with riches; its silk and velvet hangings, confined with golden cords, and embroidered with gold and pearls; its delicate Flanders lace draperies, more fit for the boudoir of the Princess Mary than the tent of her warrior father; the Arras hangings and carpets, woven with gorgeous colours, which filled an enormous quantity of cases, all were cut up in lengths of so many ells, and distributed like so much household linen sold at a village shop, and treated with contempt for the little utility it promised.

"Four hundred tents, of scarcely inferior richness, surrounded that of the Duke, and belonged to the different nobles of his Court and his immediate attendants. Outside his own shone the escutcheon of his arms, embroidered in pearls and jewels; it was hung within with red velvet, bordered with gold and pearls.

"No modern luxury could exceed the elegant conveniences it contained; it had windows, the panes of which were richly cased in delicate golden frames, and under a canopy stood the massive gold arm-chair, in which Charles was accustomed to receive ambassadors in his solemn audiences.

"The dazzled Swiss, who entered these sacred precincts, found his different rich suits of armour, the value of which they could better appreciate, his swords all studded with jewels, his poignards and lances mounted in ivory, worked with marvellous art—the sheaths and handles of many of which were all resplendent with rubies, sapphires, and emeralds—less prized by the mountaineers who handled them than the flowers that grew beside their torrents.

"His seal, which weighed two marks of gold; his tablets, in which were the portraits, in miniature, of Duke Philippe and himself, all bound in crimson velvet and banded with gold; his collar of the Golden Fleece, sparkling with rubies, with innumerable other objects of enormous value, were tossed from hand to hand, and given away in portions, or strewed on the ground as worthless.

"The separate tent, which served as a chapel, was filled with almost equal riches. All the shrines and relics which had been exhibited two years before at the meeting of the Duke and the Emperor, were found there. The twelve apostles, in silver; the shrine of St. Andrew, in crystal; the jewelled chaplet of good Duke Philippe, and a book of hours, covered with gems; censors and other vessels—all were of amazing splendour, and all became part of the spoil.

"The history," says Barante, in his admirable account of the battle of Granson, 'of the three celebrated diamonds of Charles the Bold, deserves to be told, for there was a renown attached to them, and an eagerness and avidity amongst so many crowned heads to possess them, that enhanced even their intrinsic value.'

"For several centuries princes contended for these gems, and offered enormous sums for them, obtaining them at any expense, to the envy and

disappointment of royal rivals, and keeping them as the most precious of their possessions.

"The finest of the three was that which was sold to the Curé of Montagni, who disposed of it to a man of Berne, who ventured to offer three crowns for it. From hand to hand it passed, increasing in price, but its real value unsuspected, till at length it was bought by a Bernois, named Bartholomi May, a rich merchant, who was seeking for the lost gem, and who could not obtain it from the then possessor under the sum of five thousand ducats, which he knew to be so much under its value, that he made a present to the man who procured it for him of four hundred ducats.

"In 1482 it was bought by the Genoise for seven thousand ducats, who resold it to Ludovico Sforza il Moro for fourteen thousand; after the fall of the house of Sforza, the diamond passed into the hands of Pope Julius the Second for twenty thousand ducats, and it is still one of the chief ornaments of the tiara of the Pope.

"Although a gem," says an Eastern poet, "may fall at the feet and a piece of glass be worn on the head, yet, at the season of buying and selling, glass is but glass, and gems are gems."

"The second of these diamonds, but little inferior to the first, was recovered by the famous rich merchant of Augsburg, Jacques Fugger, who refused to part with it for a long time. Soliman Pacha and the Emperor Charles Fifth, both endeavoured to obtain it from him, but Fugger would not accept the offers of the Sultan, as he thought it a dishonour that it should leave a Christian country and adorn the crown of a Pagan ruler. He did not choose either to relinquish it to the Emperor, who was already deeply in his debt.

"At length this diamond was bought by Henry the Eighth, of England, and, through Mary, passed to Philip of Spain, and then returned once more to the house of Charles in the person of his great grandson. It still belongs to Austria.

"The third diamond is less than the other two. It was sold at Lucerne, in 1492, for five thousand ducats, and passed from thence into Portugal. While the Spaniards possessed that kingdom, Don Antonio, Prior of Crato, the last descendant of the branch of the house of Braganza who had lost the crown, came to Paris and there died. The diamond was then bought by Nicolas de Harlai, Sieur de Sancy, by whose name it has been since known, and for a long period formed a part of the crown diamonds of France.

"Three rubies of great beauty, which were called the Three Brothers, and two others named La Hotte and La Belle de Flandres, were found and lost at Granson, besides several other famous jewels which were never heard of afterwards.

"The Duke's Italian cap, of yellow velvet, was surrounded by a crown of precious stones of great value. One of the peasant victors caught this up and put it on his head in jest, but soon threw it aside for a coat of mail, which was offered in exchange for it.

"This also came into possession of Jacques Fugger, of Augsburg, together with other jewels, and he sold them, many years afterwards, to Maximilian, the husband of Mary of Burgundy, who would naturally have inherited all these dispersed treasures.

"Besides these heaps of jewels, the worth of which could not be appreciated by the Swiss, they found a treasure which was to them really of price. This was an immense quantity of artillery and many tons of powder. This useful and valuable prize was distributed to the different towns, who had their part also in the stands of arms, which they knew well how to use. Amongst the offensive weapons so much welcomed as booty, were arrows of English manufacture, many of which were poisoned; and English bridles of horses, of extremely good make.

"As for the banners and standards, they formed glorious trophies, and were paraded with great pomp, and placed in all the churches of the confederate towns.

"The money of the Duke was faithfully divided, but was so abundant that it could not be counted, but was measured out in hatsful.

"There was an equal profusion of provisions, which loaded waggons innumerable, and all round the camp were booths filled to overflowing with different foods, brought by merchants on speculation for the use of the army.

"It occupied several days to distribute this enormous plunder, and the enriched mountaineers remained amazed at the easy victory and the great wealth they had obtained."

On the death of Charles the Bold in the battle with the Lorrainers at Nancy, in January, 1477, Mary, now in her twenty-first year, was at Ghent with her mother-in-law, Margaret of York. Many were the perplexities and troubles which the young heiress then underwent. The greatest insult offered to her was Louis sending an emissary to seek her hand for the Dauphin, then only eight years of age. The ignominious dismissal of the Count de Meulan, who had been a barber, increased the malignant hostility of the French king. But from her numerous suitors Mary escaped by her marriage with Maximilian, son of Frederic, the German Emperor. The first interview and the marriage are thus described:—

"Maximilian was young, enthusiastic, and a poet; and, although his father's penurious habits had deprived him of the opportunities of a brilliant education, nature had done much for him, as well in mind as in person, and he was by no means unworthy of the gentle prize which he was about to claim as his own.

"He arrived at Ghent on the 18th of August, 1477, and in the evening of that same day he was admitted to pay his respects to the Duchess Mary.

"Their first interview must have been very singular, for the Duke could speak no French, and German was unknown to the Duchess. Mary, however, saw in him a saviour and protector; was struck with his noble countenance and gentle and amiable manners, while he was at once charmed with her innocent beauty and interesting appearance, her youth, her grace, and the frank confiding air with which she received him.

"Nothing could be more complete than their good understanding, although words were wanting to each to express their mutual satisfaction.

"The betrothal took place instantly, and the next morning the heiress of Burgundy repaired to the church, accompanied by the Sieur de Grutheuse, and Count de Chimay, who had returned with Maximilian from Germany, where they had been prisoners since the fatal battle of Nancy. Before the Duchess walked the two beautiful orphan children of the Duke de Gueldres, each carrying a taper; the suite which followed was very small, and each person dressed in mourning, in consequence of the recent death of her father; and it was in this simple manner that the greatest heiress of Europe espoused the son of the Emperor of Germany.

"There is something extremely touching in this circumstance; and the marriage thus concluded, after so many struggles, is more interesting than if it had been surrounded by all the pomp and splendour which naturally might have been expected to attend a ceremony so important between two persons of such high rank and power.

"Mary, still in tears for her father; her sorrows revived by meeting with two of his warrior friends, who had shared the last day of battle with him, and had suffered in his cause; her mourning weeds not yet cast aside, and the chief attendants upon her state, two little children, who had become orphans through the hostility of their father to herself, and by whose death she had escaped a terrible fate.

"If the absence of gaiety or magnificence at her marriage, and the presence of mourning, might be a presage of the premature fate which awaited the amiable bride, its simplicity might be equally so of the quiet and contented happiness she experienced in her union with a man who adored her, and whose sorrow for her early loss never quitted him

through all the vicissitudes and stirring events which distinguished his long career."

The melancholy accident which befel Mary while hunting, and the affecting scenes of her fatal illness, are narrated in striking and pleasing language. She was only twenty-five years of age when she died. Maximilian was two years younger:—

"He was only three-and-twenty when this sorrow overtook him; and in spite of his valour, his energy, and spirit, the cloud was never removed which darkened his future life, and probably occasioned much of the eccentricity and wildness which caused him to be considered at times scarcely in his proper senses."

When the French Revolution broke out, Pierre de Zitter, the guardian of the church of Notre Dame at Bruges, removed the ornaments from the tombs of Mary and of Charles her father, and they were kept in safety till more peaceful times:—

"When Napoleon came to Bruges, he visited the church of Notre Dame, and, in a lateral chapel, was shown by De Zitter himself the two tombs of Mary and Charles, which by his care had been re-erected there, although the ornaments were still concealed. Napoleon, pleased with the zeal of this man, ordered that a thousand francs should be paid him as a mark of his approval. Besides this, he commanded that the sum of ten thousand francs should be granted to restore the chapel; and in the course of time the tombs reappeared in all their original splendour, as they now appear, the ornament and boast of Bruges and of Belgium."

In these 'Memoirs of Mary of Burgundy and her Contemporaries,' as may be gathered from our extracts, Miss Costello has presented a work of very considerable biographical and historical interest.

The Homes of the New World. By Fredrika Bremer. Translated by Mary Howitt. 3 vols. Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.

AMERICA has long needed the good offices of one who writes from the heart, and loves to dwell on the bright side of things. Our impressions of the States and their aspiring people have been mainly gathered, hitherto, from the vulgar republican crust, so to speak, of American society. Miss Bremer has been escorted to some of its quiet rural homes, and in this delightful series of letters, full of intelligence and kindly sympathy, a really new world of gentleness and refinement is opened out to us. Her narrative is no denial of the criticisms of English tourists. It treats of a better and more exclusive rank of the people, of care-bereft families, for example, dwelling on the banks of "the great and glorious Hudson," inhabiting "beautiful little houses, with their orchards and grounds, which lie like pearls set in the emerald green frame of the river." In the first steam-boat the authoress enters she sees "none of Dickens's smoking and spitting gentlemen;" but it is not long before, in another steam-boat, the characteristic is verified. "Beside us," says Miss Bremer, "sate two young men, one of whom smoked and spat incessantly, just before Mrs. Downing and myself. 'That gentleman needs a Dickens!' said I, softly, to Mr. Downing. 'But then,' replied Mr. Downing, in the same under-tone, 'Dickens would have committed the mistake of supposing him to be a gentleman!' We must not understand that what we have been told of America and the Americans is not true, but that the majority of what is good remains untold; and we find, as a motto, on

the title-page of this work, "Sing unto the Lord a new song." The genial and loveable Fredrika is blind to the alloy of American society, and sees only the purer metal. Everything is viewed *en couleur de rose*. The air she breathes is "balsamic;" the fruits set before her are either "paradisaical" or "Hesperian"; her entertainers seem to live only for "the beautiful and the agreeable;" and every day, in this "excess of social intercourse," she "feels herself to be drinking nectar spiritually and bodily." "It is a divine drink," sighs the authoress, "but almost too potent for a weak mortal, at least as an everyday beverage."

Miss Bremer's letters, addressed to a much-loved invalid sister, who did not long survive, are written with charming simplicity. We quote the second, descriptive of her arrival in New York, as presenting an example of her pleasant and novel treatment of an oft-told tale:—

"New York, October 4th, 1849.

"Good morning, little sister mine! or rather, good evening in the New World, where I now set firm foot, after thirteen days rocking on the sea. I am lodging in the Astor House, one of the largest and best hotels of New York, and where the inhabitants are as numerous as in the capital of Iceland—namely, about five hundred.

"Opposite to this Astor House I see a large, so-called, museum, with fluttering banners and green shrubs on the roof, and the walls covered with immense paintings, representing 'The Greatest Wonders in the World,' in immense, wonderful animals, and extraordinary human beings, all of which may be seen in the house; among these I observe a fellow who makes a sunset aloft in the air out of the yawning jaws of a whale; a 'salto mortale,' like the salt-prophet, Jonas; and many such-like curiosities, which are still further trumpeted forth by a band of musicians from a balcony before the house. They play very well, and the whole looks very merry.

"In front of the Astor House is a green space, inclosed with trees, and in the centre a large fountain, which has a refreshing appearance, and there I have refreshed myself by walking an hour this afternoon. Astor House is situated in Broadway, the great high-street and thoroughfare of New York, where people and carriages pour along in one incessant stream, and in true republican intermixture. Long lines of white and gilded omnibuses wind their way at an uninterrupted, rapid rate, as far as one can see, amid thousands of other vehicles, great and small. The broad side-paths are thronged with people of all classes; there are beautiful houses, and houses under erection; splendid shops, and a heap of horrible rubbish. There is something confused in this Broadway which makes one feel a little bewildered in the beginning. And thus, in the first place, I merely think of getting across the street alive. That beautiful little green plot, with its lovely fountain, seems to me, beside the bustling Broadway, like an oasis in the agitated sand.

"I must now say something of my arrival here.

"I last left you the day before we reached Halifax. That night was the end of any danger in our voyage; for it was during a thick mist that we approached the shore and its dangerous surf. We were obliged every now and then to lie still. In the morning, however, we were at Halifax, and I saw the surf-billows, like some unknown, enormous sea-creatures, heave themselves, roaring at a distance around us. I went on shore at Halifax, but only to meet again the worst features of the old world, fog, rags, beggars, dirty, screaming children, wretched horses, and such-like. I was glad to stay only a few hours there.

"The following day we took our course direct to New York; that was a real enjoyment,—warm weather, a calm sea, favourable wind, and in the evening the ocean full of phosphoric light and stars, and heaven full of stars also, shining out from amid

poetical clouds. It was a glorious evening. I was on deck till quite late, and watched the fireworks which our keel called forth from the deep along the whole track of the ship. We sailed, as it were, in an element of bright silver, from which the most splendid constellation of golden stars sprang forth incessantly.

"The day before had been cloudy; the heavens and the sea had been grey; the waves lead-coloured. But when we came into the large, beautiful haven of New York, which inclosed us like an open embrace, the sun broke through the clouds, strong and warm, and everything far around was illuminated. It was a glorious reception by the New World; besides this, there was a something so singularly full of vitality, so exuberantly young, which struck me deeply: there was in it something of that first life of youth, such as is felt at fifteen or sixteen. I drank in the air as one might drink in water, whilst I stood on deck looking out upon the new shore which we were rapidly approaching.

"The shore is low. A forest of masts as yet hid New York from my sight; one only saw its towers and its smoke; and right and left in the harbour lay, with its green hills and groups of beautiful villas and houses, the large islands, Long Island, and to the left Staten Island, which seemed to me higher and more woody than the rest of the coast. The harbour is magnificent; and our arrival was festively beautiful, thanks to sun and wind!

"A very agreeable family of the name of B——, from Georgia, took charge of me and mine with the utmost kindness, and I accompanied them to the Astor House, where we immediately obtained rooms. The pale girl and myself took up our quarters in a room four stories high; we could not manage it otherwise.

"I had not been a quarter of an hour in the Astor House, and was standing with my travelling companions in a parlour, when a gentleman dressed in black, with a refined, gentlemanly appearance and manner, and a pair of the handsomest brown eyes I ever saw, approached me gently, and mentioned my name in a remarkably melodious voice: it was Mr. Downing, who had come from his villa on the Hudson to meet me on my arrival. I had scarcely expected that, as I was so much after my time, and he had already made a journey to New York on my behalf in vain. His exterior and his whole demeanour pleased me greatly. I do not know why, but I had imagined him to be a middle-aged man, with blue eyes and light hair; and he is a young man, about thirty, with dark eyes and dark hair, of a beautiful brown, and softly curling—in short, of quite a poetical appearance! He will remain here with me over to-morrow; but he insists upon it that on the following day I shall accompany him to his house on the Hudson, where I can make the acquaintance of his wife, at my leisure, in the Highlands of the Hudson, as well as consider over my future travelling movements.

"I have spent the evening with my friends from the 'Canada,' and Mr. Downing, in one of the many large drawing-rooms of the house, and there made various acquaintances. Magnificent drawing-rooms with furniture of velvet, with mirrors and gilding, brilliant with gas-lighted magnificent chandeliers, and other grandeur, stand open in every story of the house, for ladies and gentlemen who live here, or who are visiting here, to converse or to rest, talking together on soft and splendid sofas or arm chairs, fanning themselves, and just as if they had nothing else to do in the world than to make themselves agreeable to one another. Scarcely can a lady rise than immediately a gentleman is at hand to offer her his arm.

"October 5th.—Uf! It is more wearisome here than anybody can believe; and I am quite tired out after one day of lion-life.

"Through the whole day have I had nothing to do but to receive visits; to sit or to stand in a grand parlour, and merely turn from one to another, receiving the salutations and shaking hands with sometimes half a dozen new acquaintance at once—gentlemen of all professions and all nations, ladies who invite me to their house and home, and who wish that I would go immediately; besides, a

number of letters which I could do no more than merely break open, requests for autographs and so on. I have shaken hands with from seventy to eighty persons to-day, whilst I was unable to receive the visits of many others. Of the names I remember scarcely any, but the greater number of the people whom I have seen please me from their cordial frank manners, and I am grateful to them for their extreme friendliness towards me. It feels to me so warm and hospitable. Nevertheless I was very glad to be relieved for a few hours from my good friends, and to drive out with Mr. Downing to the beautiful park, Greenwood, the large and new cemetery of New York, a young *Père la Chaise*, but on a more gigantic scale as to situation and plan. One drives as if in an extensive English park, amid hill and dale. From the highest hill, Ocean Hill, as it is called, one looks out to the sea—a glorious view. I should like to repose here. The most beautiful monument which I saw, was of white marble, and had been erected by sorrowing parents over their young daughter and only child. The young girl had been driven over; I suppose it must have been in Broadway.

"On our return to the hotel I dined with Mr. Downing in one of the smaller saloons. I saw some gentlemen sitting at table, whom it was as distressing for me to look at as it is to look at over-driven worn-out horses, for so they looked to me. The restless, deeply sunk eyes, the excited, wearied features,—to what a life they bore witness! Better lie and sleep on Ocean Hill than live thus on Broadway! These figures resembled a few of those which I had seen at the Astor House; but I had already seen on Broadway both human beings and horses which I wished not to have seen on the soil of the New World, and which testify to dark passages of life even there. And yet,—how should it be otherwise, especially at New York? which is rather a large hotel, a caravanserai for the whole world, than a regular American city.

"After dinner I again received visitors, among these, Mrs. Child; she gave me the impression of a beautiful soul, but too angular to be happy. The little poetess, Miss Lynch, was among the visitors of the morning, an agreeable, pretty, and intellectual young lady, in whose countenance there is a look of Jenny Lind. I also saw some of my countrymen. A pleasant young Swede, Frestadius, came with a large bouquet. The Norwegian consul, Hejerdahl, Mr. Butenskön, I had scarcely time for more than merely to exchange a greeting with. Oneonius came also from the West, and wished to talk with me, that I might warn our countrymen against emigration and its sufferings.

"Among the invitations of to-day there was one to a Phalanstery, situated at New Jersey, not far from New York. I shall have no objection to make a nearer acquaintance with these wild beasts. The family which invited me thither, on a visit to themselves, did not seem at all repulsive, but, on the contrary, attractive; so ingenuous, kind, and earnest did they appear.

"But that which I am a little afraid of is, for myself at least, lest life in this country should be like this of to-day; then I should be regularly worn out, for my strength could never stand against these many lively people. What is to be done if it goes on in this way? Fortunately I shall be conveyed away from New York early to-morrow morning by the excellent Mr. Downing. This evening I must, spite of my fatigue, drive to a *soirée* at the house of Miss Lynch, who wishes to introduce me to some of her literary friends. I am dressed for this purpose, have on my best clothes, and look quite respectable in them, and am writing whilst I wait for the carriage. Only to think of those who are lying down to sleep!

"I am still in joint quarters with the pale young girl from the South; I have never seen any one with so serene a mind, or one who meets suffering so cheerfully. She is a quiet, pious being, endowed with great strength and tenderness of soul.

"I must now go! Good night!"

Arrived at Mr. Downing's villa on the banks of the Hudson, Miss Bremer continues her journal in glowing terms:—

"The banks of the Hudson are now in all the pomp of autumn, and the foliage of the woods which clothe the shores and the heights, and which consist of a great variety of trees, is now brilliant with the most splendid variation of colour, from light yellow to intense scarlet; but it is too gorgeous and chaotic a splendour to be truly agreeable to my eye, which requires more uniformity of colour. Of fruit there is here the greatest abundance; the most beautiful peaches, although their season is properly over; pears, plums, grapes, that is to say, hot-house grapes, and many other. The Downings' table is ornamented every day with a basket filled with the most glorious fruit—really Hesperian—and beautiful flowers arranged with the most exquisite taste. The breakfasts here, in the country, are much more substantial than with us in Sweden. Besides coffee and tea, the table is supplied with fish, fresh meat, buckwheat cakes, omelets, and so on. Besides which here is bread of Indian corn and a kind of sweet potato, which is peculiar to the country, and which is an extremely good and palatable fruit. It is long, soft, and mealy, yellow and very sweet. It is commonly brought to table unpeeled, and is eaten with butter. At dinner there is meat, in the same way as in England, together with various vegetables and fruit peculiar to America. In the afternoon but little is eaten; they have commonly tea, and bread-and-butter or tea-bread, and after that preserved fruits, mostly peach, and cream. One custom, which appears to me to be especially excellent, is to place little tables beside the guests, one to each two persons, before the tea is handed round. In this way people place themselves together, two and two, and have the most delicious little *littes*, and that you know I am very fond of. I cannot converse well except when *littes* are served."

In the following extracts we have some interesting sketches of Washington Irving, Waldo Emerson, and Mrs. Sigourney:—

"There was a whole crowd of strangers to dinner, among whom was Washington Irving, a man of about sixty, with large beautiful eyes, a large well-formed nose, a countenance still handsome, in which youthful little dimples and smiles bear witness to a youthfully fresh and humorous disposition and soul. He must be a man of an usually happy temperament, and of the most excellent heart. He has surrounded himself with a number of nieces (he says he cannot conceive of what use boys are in the world), whom he makes happy, and who make him so by their affection. He says he has the peculiar faculty of liking everything which he possesses, and everything which seeks his protection. He is an optimist, but not a conceited one."

"He was my neighbour at table, and I have to thank him for not becoming sleepy; nor should I have supposed, as people told me, that he was accustomed to be sleepy at great dinners, at which I certainly am not surprised. But the dinner today was not one of the long and tedious description, besides which he evidently endeavoured to make the conversation interesting and agreeable; and I, too, did my best, as you may easily suppose."

"In the afternoon I begged him to allow me to take a profile likeness of him; and, in order that he might not go quite asleep during the operation, I begged Angelica H. to sit just opposite to him, and talk to him; and the plan succeeded excellently. The handsome old gentleman now became wide awake, loquacious and lively, and there was such vivacity in his smile, and so much fun in all the merry dimples of his countenance, that it is my own fault if I have not made one of the best and most characteristic portraits that has ever been taken of this universally beloved author. I am glad to have it to show to his friends and admirers in Sweden. Washington Irving invited me and my friends to his house for the following evening; but, as we were obliged to return home that day, we could not accept his invitation, but engaged to pay him a visit in the morning."

"I went in the forenoon with Mary H. to Washington Irving's. His house or villa, which

stands on the banks of the Hudson, resembles a peaceful idyll; thick masses of ivy clothe one portion of the white walls and garland the eaves. Fat cows fed in a meadow just before the window. Within, the room seemed full of summer warmth, and had a peaceful and cheerful aspect. One felt that a cordial spirit, full of the best sentiment of the soul, lived and worked there. Washington Irving, although possessed of the politeness of a man of the world, and with great natural good-temper, has, nevertheless, somewhat of that nervous shyness which so easily attaches itself to the author, and in particular to him who is possessed of delicacy of feeling and refinement. The poetical mind, by its intercourse with the divine spheres, is often brought somewhat into disharmony with clumsy earthly realities. To these belong especially the visits of strangers and the forms of social intercourse, as we make them in good society on earth, and which are shells that must be cracked if one would get at the juice of either kernel or fruit. But that is a difficulty for which one often has not time. A portrait which hangs in Washington Irving's drawing-room, and which was painted many years since, represents him as a remarkably handsome man, with dark hair and eyes—a head which might have belonged to a Spaniard. When young, he must have been unusually handsome. He was engaged to a young lady of rare beauty and excellence; it would have been difficult to meet with a handsomer pair. But she died, and Washington Irving never again sought for another bride. He has been wise enough to content himself with the memory of a perfect love, and to live for literature, friendship, and nature. He is a wise man, but without wrinkles and grey hair. Washington Irving was at this time occupied with his 'Life of Mahomet,' which will shortly be sent to press."

"Emerson came to meet us, walking down the little avenue of spruce firs which leads from his house, bare-headed amid the falling snow. He is a quiet nobly grave figure, his complexion pale, with strongly marked features and dark hair. He seemed to me a younger man, but not so handsome as I had imagined him; his exterior less fascinating, but more significant. He occupied himself with us, however, and with me in particular, as a lady and a foreigner, kindly and agreeably. He is a very peculiar character, but too cold and hypercritical to please me entirely; a strong, clear eye, always looking out for an ideal which he never finds realised on earth; discovering wants, shortcomings, imperfections: and too strong and healthy himself to understand other people's weaknesses and sufferings, for he even despises suffering as a weakness unworthy of higher natures. This singularity of character leads one to suppose that he has never been ill: sorrows however he has had, and has felt them deeply, as some of his most beautiful poems prove; nevertheless, he has only allowed himself to be bowed for a short time by these griefs; the deaths of two beautiful and beloved brothers, as well as that of a beautiful little boy, his eldest son. He has also lost his first wife after having been married scarcely a year."

"Emerson is now married for the second time, and has three children. His pretty little boy, the youngest of his children, seems to be, in particular, dear to him. Mrs. Emerson has beautiful eyes, full of feeling, but she appears delicate, and is in character very different to her husband. He interested me, without warming me. That critical, crystalline and cold nature may be very estimable, quite healthy, and, in its way, beneficial for those who possess it, and also for others, who allow themselves to be measured and criticised by it. But—for me—David's heart with David's songs!"

"I shall return to this home in consequence of a very kind invitation to do so from Emerson and his wife, and in order that I may see more of this sphinx-like individual."

"From the worshipper of nature, Emerson,—who does not belong to any church, and who will not permit his children to be baptized, because he considers the nature of a child purer than is commonly that of a full-grown sinful man,—we went

to sleep at the house of a stern old Puritan, where we had long prayers, kneeling with our faces to the wall. Elizabeth H., the only daughter of the family, is still beautiful, although no longer young, and a very noble and agreeable woman. She was engaged to be married to Emerson's best beloved brother, and, after his death, declined all other matrimonial offers. She is evidently a noble creature, gifted with fine and estimable qualities, and her friendship for Waldo Emerson seems to me something very pure and perfect."

"In the afternoon we reached Hartford. We were invited for the evening to Mrs. Sigourney's, the author of 'Pleasant Memories from Pleasant Lands'; and here I shook hands with the whole town, I believe—from the bishop, a handsome old prelate, to the school girl, and played my usual part in society. Mrs. Sigourney, a very kind little sentimentalist, but a very agreeable lady, dressed in green, about fifty years old, with a good motherly demeanour, would perforce keep me with her all night, and I could not go back to my excellent chamber at the hotel, which I would so gladly have done, where I might rest and have been silent. In the morning, however, I forgot the little annoyance in breakfast and conversation with my kind hostess and her agreeable only daughter. The sun shone into the room, and the whole had the character of a good home made warm by love. In such homes I always do well, and I should have liked to have stayed longer with Mrs. Sigourney had it been possible. At parting she presented me with a handsome volume of her collected poetical works, and therein I read a poem called 'Our Country,' for which I could have kissed her hand, so beautiful was it, and so noble and so truly feminine is the spirit it breathes."

Of the strange communities formed in the United States Miss Bremer gives various accounts. We select, in conclusion, her description of the Phalanstery, the Rutgers Institution, and the Hopedale Community:—

"I must now tell you about our expedition to the Phalanstery. It was a charming morning when we set out. The air felt quite young—scarcely five years old. It was not a boy, it was a girl, full of animation, but shy; a veiled beauty. The sun was concealed by light clouds, the winds were still. As Marcus, Rebecca, and I, were standing for a short time by the ferry at Brooklyn, waiting for the boat to take us over to New York, a Quakeress was also standing there, with a Roman nose, and a frank but grave countenance. I looked at her, and she looked at me. All at once her countenance brightened as if by a sunbeam. She came up to me. 'Thou art Miss Bremer,' said she. 'Yes,' said I, 'and thou art—' She mentioned her name, and we shook hands cordially. The inward light had illumined her in more than one way, and on such a morning I felt myself on the sweetly familiar terms of 'thee and thou' with the whole world."

"We crossed the river, Marcus, Rebecca, and I. The morning wind awoke, and the clouds began to move; sailing craft and steam-boats passed one another in the bay, and young lads sat in their boats fishing up large casks and planks which the current bore with it out to sea. The shores shone out green and gold. An hour afterwards and we were on board the steam-boat which would convey us to New Jersey. Bergfalk had joined us full of life and good-humour. Channing had come with his pure glance, clear as the light of a diamond, and with him Mr. H., a lover of flowers and of Channing. We steamed along amid sunshine and conversation on subjects of interest, the dialogue being principally between Channing and myself, the others putting in now and then a word, every one rather opposed to me, and I a little opposed to all, with the exception of Marcus, whose reason accorded with my views. By this time the clouds began to gather over us, and it soon began to rain."

"We arrived in New Jersey amid rain, and in rain we reached the little town of Red Bank. Here a waggon from the Phalanstery met us, which had

been sent for the guests, as well as for potatoes, and in it we stowed ourselves, beneath a tilted cover of yellow oil-cloth, which sheltered us from the rain. A handsome young man, one of the people of the Phalanstery, drove the pair of fat horses which drew us, and after we had ploughed the sand for a couple of hours, we arrived at the Phalanstery, a couple of large houses, with several lesser ones standing around them, without anything remarkable in their style of architecture. The landscape around had a pleasant, park-like appearance; the fields and the trees were yet quite green. New Jersey is celebrated for its mild climate and its fine fruits. We were conducted into a hall and regaled with a dinner which could not have been better if it had been in Arcadia; it would have been impossible to have produced better milk, bread, or cheese. They had also meat here.

"I here met with the family which had first invited me to the Phalanstery, and found them to be the sister and brother-in-law of Marcus, two earnest, spiritual-minded people, who have a profound faith in, and love for, the principle of association. He is the president of the institution at this place. Mr. A., who has not alone enthusiasm, but who is evidently a clever and straightforward man of business, gifted with the power of organization, was originally a minister, and devoted himself for a long time most beneficially as a missionary of the poor, 'a minister at large,' as they are called in this country; after which he lived for ten years as a farmer in one of the western states in the valley of the Mississippi, cultivating maize and fruit, and finding himself well off amid the affluent solitudes of nature. As his children, however, grew up, it appeared to him too solitary for them; the house became too small, and for the sake of their education and their moral and intellectual development, he removed again, and came nearer to the great world of man. But in so doing he resolved to unite himself with that portion of it which, as it appeared to him, came the nearest to his idea of a Christian community. He and his wife and children, therefore, joined this association, which was established eight years before by a few married couples, all enthusiasts for this idea, and which now calls itself 'the North American Phalanstery.' Each member advanced the sum of one thousand dollars; land was purchased, and they began to labour together, according to laws which the society had laid down beforehand. Great difficulties met them in the commencement, in particular from their want of means to build, for the purchase of implements, and so on. It was beautiful and affecting to hear what fatigue and labour the women subjected themselves to—women who had been but little accustomed to anything of this kind; how steadfastly and with what noble courage they endured it; and how the men, in the spirit of brotherhood, did their part in any kind of work as well as the women, merely looking at the honour and the necessity of the work, and never asking whether it was the fit employment for man or for woman. They had suffered much from calumny, but through it all they had become a stronger and more numerous body.

"They had now overcome the worst, and the institution was evidently improving. It was in contemplation at this time to build a new house, in particular a large eating-hall and place for social meeting, together with a cooking and wash-house, provided with such machinery as should dispense with the most onerous hand-labour. The number of members was at this time somewhat above seventy. The establishment has its own peculiar income from mills and from tillage as well as from its orchards. They cultivate peaches, melons, and tomatoes. In the mills they prepare hominy (ground maize), which is boiled into a sort of pudding and eaten universally, especially for breakfast.

"One evening a great portion of the members of the Phalanstery assembled in one of the sitting-rooms. Various individuals were introduced to me, and I saw a great number of very handsome young people; in particular I remarked the niece and nephew of Marcus S., Abbie and her brother, as being beautiful according to one's ideal standard.

Many among the men wore coarse clothes; but all were neat, and had a something of great earnestness and kindness in their whole demeanour.

"Needlework was brought in and laid upon a table. This was the making of small linen bags for containing hominy, and which, when filled and stamped with the name of the Phalanstery, are sent for sale to New York. I sewed one bag; Channing also made another and maintained that he sewed quicker than I did; my opinion, however, is that my sewing was the best. After this I played Swedish dances and ballads for the young people, which excited them in a remarkable manner, especially the Necks polska. I related also to them the legend of the Neck and the Priest, and the Wand which became verdant, a legend which shows that even the spirits of nature might be saved. This struck them very much, and the tears came into many eyes.

"I had a little room to myself for the night, which some of the young girls had vacated for me. It was as small as a prison cell; had four bare white walls, but was neat and clean, and had a large window with a fine and beautiful prospect; and I was exceedingly comfortable in that little chamber, and slept well upon a good sofa bed to the sound of the plashing rain, and in the mild atmosphere which entered though the half-opened window. The bed-making sisters, two handsome, kind young girls, were the last which I saw in my room. I was awake in the morning by the sound of labour throughout the house; people were going and coming, all full of business; it sounded earnest and industrious. I thought the 'Essenes and the Pythagoreans began the day with a song, a consecration of the day's work to the service of the holy powers,' and I sighed to think that the associations of the West were so far behind those of the East. I dressed myself and went down.

"As there is always an impulse within me to enter body and soul into the life which at that time exists around me, so would I now live here as a true and earnest member of the Phalanstery, and therefore I entered as a worker into one of the bands of workers. I selected that in which cooking was going forward, because I consider that my genius has a bent in that direction. I was soon standing, therefore, by the fire, with the excellent Mrs. A., who had the management of this department; and I baked a whole pile of buckwheat cakes, just as we bake cakes in Sweden, but upon a large iron plate, until breakfast, and had then the pleasure of serving Marcus and Channing with some of them quite hot for breakfast. I myself thought that I had been remarkably fortunate with my cakes. In my fervour of association, I laboured also with hands and arms up to my very elbows in a great kneading trough, but had very nearly stuck fast in the dough. It was quite too heavy for me, though I would not confess it; but they were kind enough to release me from the operation in the politest manner and place it in abler hands.

"The rain had ceased, and the sun began to find his way through the clouds. I now therefore went out to look about me, accompanied by Mrs. A., and the lady of the President, the latter of whom wore a short dress and pantaloons, which were very becoming to her fine and picturesque figure, and besides which, were well calculated for walking through the wet fields and woods. We first paid a visit to the mills. Two handsome young girls, also in short dresses or blouses, girt with leathern bands, and with jaunty little caps on their heads, which were remarkably becoming, went, or rather danced along the footpath before us, over hill and dale, as light and merrily as birds. They were going to assist at the hominy mills. I went through the mills, where everything seemed excellent and well arranged, and where the little millers were already at their work.

"Thence we went across the meadows to the potato-fields, where I shook hands with the chief, who, in his shirt-sleeves, was digging up potatoes among his senators. Both the chief and the other members looked clever and excellent people; and the potato crop promised this year to be remark-

ably rich. The land in New Jersey appears to be very good and fruitful. The sun shone pleasantly over the potato field, the chief, and his labourers, among whom were many men of education and intelligence.

"In my conversation with the two sensible women, my conductresses, I learned various particulars regarding the laws and life of the Phalanstery; among others, that they are wise enough not to allow the public to absorb private property. Each individual may invest as much as he likes in the association, and retain as much of his own property as he wishes. For that which he so invests he receives interest. The time required for labour is ten hours a day. All who work over hours are paid for such over work. The women participate in all rights equally with the men: vote, and share in the administration of law and justice. 'But,' said Mrs. A., 'we have had so much to do with our domestic affairs, that we have hitherto troubled ourselves very little about these things.'

"Any one who makes known his desire to become a member, may be received as such after a probation of one year in the Phalanstery, during which time he must have shown himself to be unwearied in labour, and steadfast in brotherly love and good will. As regards his religion, rank, or his former mode of life, no questions are asked. The association makes a new experiment in social and economic life: it regards the active principle of love as the ruling power of life, and wishes to place everything within the sphere of its influence; it will, so to say, begin life anew, and makes experimental researches into its laws; like those plants called exogens, it grows from the exterior inwards, but has, it appears to me, its principle much less determinate than the vegetable.

"Being asked in the evening my opinion of this community, I candidly confessed in what it appeared to be deficient; in particular as regarded a profession of religion and public divine service; its being based merely upon a moral principle, the validity of which might be easily called in question, as they did not recognise a connexion with a life existing eternally beyond earth and time, with any eternally binding law, nor even with a divine Law-giver.

"On Wednesday I was taken to a lady's academy, called 'the Rutgers Institution,' from the name of the founder, and here I saw four hundred and sixty young girls, and some excellent arrangements for their instruction and cultivation. I also heard and read several compositions by the young girls, both in prose and verse; and I could not but admire the perspicuity of thought, the perfection of the language, and above all, the living and beautiful feeling for life which these productions displayed. Genius, properly so called, I did not find in them; and I question the wisdom of that publicity which is given to such youthful efforts. I fear that it may awaken ambition and an inclination to give importance to literary activity, which befools many young minds, while so few are possessed of the divine gift of genius which alone makes literature as well as authors good for anything.

"Hopedale Community is a small settlement altogether founded upon Christian principles, and with a patriarchal basis. The patriarch and head of the establishment, Adin Ballou, a handsome old gentleman, received us, surrounded by a numerous family. Each family has here its separate house and garden. The greater number of the people are handicraftsmen and agriculturists. Here also were we received with songs of welcome and flowers. Here also I remarked in the young people a singularly joyous and fresh life, and it was delightful to see the happy groups passing to and fro in the sunshine from one comfortable home to another. The church of the little community, as well as its schoolhouse, struck me as remarkably unchurchlike. Various moral aphorisms, such as 'Hope on, hope ever,' 'Try again,' and such like, might be read upon the naked walls. For the rest it was evident that the poetic element had much more vitality here than among the community of New Jersey. The moral element constituted nevertheless the kernel even here, the poetic

was merely an addition—the sugar in the moral cake.

"We dined in an excellent little home. They asked no questions of the guests, merely entertained them well and kindly. A negro and his wife came hither wishing to be received as members of the community. Hopedale Community would suit me better than the North American Phalanstery, partly from the separate dwellings, and partly from the recognition of the Christian faith, as well as for the sake of the patriarch, who has the appearance of a man in whom one might place the most heartfelt confidence. The little community has been in existence about seven years, and consists of about thirty families, comprising in all one hundred and seventy souls. Every member pledges himself to 'the Christian faith, non-resistance, and temperance.' Adin Ballou has published a work on the right understanding of these subjects, which he gave me.

"Taking one thing with another, it seemed to me as if life in this home, and in this community, was deficient in gaiety, had but few enjoyments for the intellect, or the sense of the beautiful; but it was at the same time most truly estimable, earnest, God-fearing, industrious,—upon the whole, an excellent foundation for a strong popular life. From these small homes must proceed earnest men and women, people who take life seriously, and have early learnt to labour and to pray. Hopedale Community simply describes its object to be, 'a beginning upon a small scale of those industrial armies which shall go forth to subdue, to render fruitful and to beautify the barren fields of the earth, and to make of them worthy dwelling-places for practical Christian communities, and the wider extension of general improvement for the best interests of mankind.' Practical Christianity is the watchword of these peaceful conquerors. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall inherit the earth.'"

Here for the present we must pause.

Mexico, Aztec, Spanish, and Republican.

With a View of the Ancient Aztec Empire and Civilization, a Historical Sketch of the late War, and Notices of New Mexico and California. By Brantz Mayer, formerly Secretary of Legation to Mexico. Hartford, U.S.: Drake and Co. London: Trübner and Co.

This is by far the most complete account of Mexico, historical and descriptive, that has yet been published. It is nearly half a century since the work of Baron Humboldt first attracted general notice to the antiquities and the resources of this region of the new world. The story of the Spanish conquest has ever been considered one of the most remarkable chapters in the history of the world. But of the subsequent condition of the country little authentic information has been communicated to the civilized nations of Europe. The vice-royal history of Mexico is now for the first time presented in the English language, while, in Spanish, no single author has ever attempted it continuously. Mr. Mayer, after spending much time in literary research, and acquiring the richest collection possessed by any private individual, of books on the subject, has prepared a systematic work, the first volume of which contains the history of Mexico from the earliest times down to the close of the American invasion in 1848, while the second volume presents a geographical, statistical, political, and social description of the country. Now that Mexico is likely to be brought more intimately into the brotherhood of nations by the opening of the high-way across the Isthmus of Panama, the publication of a work like the present is an event of some political as well as commercial interest and importance.

Of the early history and first peopling of Mexico, the author, after collecting the various traditional and monumental notices, gives the following summary:—

"The general, and best received tradition that we possess upon the subject, declares that the original inhabitants of this beautiful valley came from the north; and that perhaps the earliest as well as the most conspicuous in the legends, were the Toltecs, who moved to the south before the end of the seventh century, and settled at Tollan or Tula, north of the Mexican valley, where extensive architectural remains were yet to be found at the period of the conquest. This spot seems to have gradually become the parent hive of civilization and advancement; but, after four centuries, during which they extended their sway over the whole of Anahuac, the Toltecs are alleged to have wasted away by famine, disease, and the slow desolation of unsuccessful wars. This occurred about the year 1051, as the Indian tradition relates,—and the few who escaped the ravages of death, departed for those more southern regions now known as Yucatan and Guatemala, in which we perhaps find the present remains of their civilization displayed in the temples, edifices, and tombs of Palenque and Uxmal. During the next century these valleys and mountains were nearly desolate and bare of population, until a rude and altogether uncivilized tribe, known as the Chichimecas, came from Amquemecan, in the north, and settled in villages among the ruins of their Toltec predecessors. After eight years, six other Indian tribes called Nahuatlacs arrived, and announced the approach of another band from the north, known as the Aztecs, who, soon afterwards, entered Anahuac. About this period the Acolhuans, who are said to have emigrated from Teocolhuacan, near the original territories of the Chichimecas, advanced into the valley and speedily allied themselves with their ancient neighbours. These tribes appear to have been the founders of the Tezcoacan government and nation which was once assailed successfully by the Tapanecs, but was finally delivered from thralldom by the signal bravery and talents of the prince Nezahualcoyotl, who was heir of the crown, supported by his Mexican allies.

"Our chief concern, however, in groping our way through the tangled labyrinth of tradition, is to ascertain the story of the Aztecs, whose advent has been already announced. It was about the year 1160, that they departed from Aztlan, the original seat of their tribe, on their journey of southern emigration. Their pilgrimage seems to have been interrupted by numerous halts and delays, both on their route through the northern regions now comprehended in the modern Republic of Mexico, as well as in different parts of the Mexican valley which was subsequently to become their home and capital. At length, in 1325, they descried an eagle resting on a cactus which sprang from the crevice of a rock in the lake of Tezcoaco, and grasping in his talons a writhing serpent. This had been designated by the Aztec oracles as the site of the home in which the tribe should rest after its long and weary migration; and, accordingly, the city of Tenochtitlan was founded upon the sacred spot, and like another Venice rose from the bosom of the placid waters.

"It was near a hundred years after the founding of the city, and in the beginning of the fifteenth century, that the Tapanecs attacked the Tezcoacan monarchy, as has been related in the previous part of this chapter. The Tezcoacans and the Aztecs or Mexicans united to put down the power of the spoiler, and as a recompense for the important services of the allies, the supreme dominion of the territory of the royal house of Tezcoaco was transferred to the Aztecs. The Tezcoacan sovereigns thus became, in a measure, mediatized princes of the Mexican throne; and the two states, together with the neighbouring small kingdom of Tlacopan, south of the lake of Chalco, formed an offensive and defensive league, which was sustained with unwavering fidelity through all the wars and assaults which ensued during the succeeding century. The bold leaguers united in that spirit of

plunder and conquest which characterizes a martial people, as soon as they are surrounded by the necessities, comforts, and elegances of life in their own country, and whenever the increase of population begins to require a vent through which it may expand those energies that would destroy the state by rebellions or civil war, if pent up within the narrow limits of so small a realm as the valley of Mexico. Accordingly we find that the sway of this small tribe, which had but just nestled among the reeds, rocks, and marshes of the lake, was quickly spread beyond the mountain barrier that hemmed in the valley. Like the Hollanders, they became great by the very wretchedness of their site, and the vigilant industry it enforced. The Aztec arms were triumphant throughout all the plains that swept downward towards the Atlantic, and, as we have seen, even maintained dominion on the shores of the Pacific, or penetrated, under the bloody Ahuitzotl, the remotest corners of Guatemala and Nicaragua.

"Such was the extent of Aztec power at the beginning of the 16th century, at the period of the Spanish incursion."

With the story of the Spanish conquest every reader of history is familiar. Mr. Mayer gives an animated narrative of the times of Cortez, and of the viceroys who successively held the government under the crown of Spain, with an account of the events of the revolution, when the yoke of the mother country was thrown off, and the republic was established. Then follows a detailed narrative of the war between Mexico and the United States, the volume concluding with a sketch of the present political condition, and an estimate of the prospects of the republic. At the time of the book being written, President Herrera had held the government for two years, with the results thus described:—

"Thus, for more than two years, has the government of President Herrera maintained its respectability and authority in spite of a failing treasury, political factionists, and domestic rebellion. The attempted task of national reorganization has been honestly and firmly, if not successfully carried out. The army, that canker of the nation, has been nearly destroyed, and its idle officers and men discharged to earn their living by honest labour. A great change has passed over Mexico. Santa Anna lives abroad in almost compulsory exile. Canalezo and Paredes are dead. Bustamante, without political strength or party, retains a military command. The force in garrison does not amount to more, probably, than five or six thousand. The prestige of the army was blurred and blighted by the war. Nearly all the old political managers and intriguers are gradually passing from the stage, and, with the new men coming upon it, to whom the war has taught terrible but salutary lessons, we may hope that another era of civilization and progress is about to dawn upon this great country. This hope is founded on the establishment of order and official responsibility by a strong government which will neither degenerate into despotism nor become corrupt by the uninterrupted enjoyment of power. The true value of the representative system will thus become rapidly known to Mexico as she develops her resources, by the united, constitutional, and peaceful movement of her state and national machinery."

Of Santa Anna, formerly the dictator of the republic, a long account is given, and the overthrow of his power is regarded as opening the way for a successful attempt at constitutional government:—

"It will easily be understood how such a man, in the revolutionary times of Mexico, became neither the Cromwell nor the Washington of his country. The great talent which he unquestionably possessed, taught him that it was easier to deal corruptly with corruptions than to rise to the dignity of a loyal reformer. He and his country mutually acted and reacted upon each other. Neither a student nor a traveller, he knew nothing

of human character except as he saw it exhibited at home, and there he certainly sometimes found excuses for severity and even despotism. It is undeniable that he was endowed with a peculiar genius, but it was that kind of energetic genius which may raise a dexterous man from disgrace, defeat, or reverses, rather than sustain him in power when he has reached it. He never was popular or relied for success on the democratic sentiment of his country. He ascertained, at an early day, that the people would not favour his aspirations, and, abandoning federalism, he threw himself in the embrace of the centralists. The army and the church establishment,—combined for mutual protection under his auspices,—were the only two elements of his political strength; and as long as he wielded their mingled power, he was enabled to do more than any other Mexican in thoroughly demoralizing his country. As a military demagogue he was often valuable even to honest patriots who were willing to call him to power for a moment to save the country either from anarchy or from the grasp of more dangerous aspirants. Until the army was destroyed, Santa Anna could not fall, nor would the military politicians yield to the civil. As long as this dangerous chief and his myrmidons remained in Mexico, either in or out of power, every citizen felt that he was suffering under the rod of a despot, or that the progress of his country would soon be paralyzed by the wand of an unprincipled agitator. But with the army reduced to the mere requirements of a police system, and Santa Anna beyond the limits of the Republic, the nation may breathe with freedom and vigour."

No great or permanent improvement of the social or political state of the country is to be looked for, until new elements of civilization and energy are introduced, which the evil influence of popish superstition has hitherto effectually excluded. It is less to difference of race than of religion that we ascribe the contrast between the prosperity and progress of the United States and the degradation and stagnancy of the Mexican nation. What can be expected from a people of whose ecclesiastical statistics this is a specimen?—

"In 1844, when the last accurate summary of the Mexican Church, within our reach, was made, the following was the condition:—

"Summary of Mexican Church in 1844.

"In this year the possessions in conventual establishments of the Regular Orders, were estimated as follows:—

Dominicans	25	Conventual establishments.
Franciscans	68	"
Augustines	22	"
Carmelites	16	"
Mercedarios	19	"

Total 150 Conventual establishments.

Regular Ecclesiastics:—Monks	1700
Nuns	2000
	3700
Secular Clergy	3500

Total number in religious orders 7200

"In 1844,—and we may consider it nearly the same in 1850,—the Church property was calculated as follows:—

Real estate—urban and rural	\$18,000,000
Churches, houses, convents, curates' dwellings, furniture, jewels, sacred vessels and other personalities	52,000,000
Floating capital, various funds in ecclesiastical treasuries, and the capital required to produce the sum annually received by the Mexican clergy in alms, <i>díezmos</i> , dues, &c. &c.	20,000,000

Total \$90,000,000

"The real estate of the Church is estimated by Señor Otero,—from whose work on the social and political condition of Mexico this calculation is taken,—to have been worth at least 25 per cent. more before the revolution; and to this increased value must be added about \$115,000,000 of capital founded on *contribuciones*, *derechos reales*, and other imposts which were laid on the property of the country for the benefit of the clergy.

"It is not to be supposed that the 2000 nuns are of ecclesiastical importance except for charitable and educational purposes;—if we deduct their number, therefore, from the 1700 monks and 3500 secular clergy, we shall have only 3200 men devoted to the spiritual wants of more than seven and a half millions, or 2353 individuals assigned to the ecclesiastical charge of each priest, monk, or curate. And yet, among these men, chiefly, the avails of probably more than \$90,000,000 of property are to be annually distributed or consolidated in a country from which they are constantly asking alms instead of bestowing them.

"The value of their churches, the extent of their city property, the power they possess as lenders and mortgagees in Mexico, where there are no banks, and the enormous masses of church plate, golden ornaments and jewels, will swell the above statements and estimates of the church's wealth to nearer one hundred millions than ninety, or to about \$88,000,000 less than it was before the rebellion against Spain; at which period the number of ecclesiastics was about 10,000; or 13,000, if the lay brethren and subordinates are included in the ecclesiastical census."

As public attention has lately been called to the bigotry and intolerance of the Spanish government in refusing Christian burial to Protestants at Madrid, it is worthy of notice that even in Mexico such an attempt, though made, was not carried into effect.

"It will scarcely be credited, but such is nevertheless the fact, that it was once seriously contemplated in Mexico to deny the right of sepulture to all strangers who were not Catholics, and that the point was only overruled by an ingenious liberalist, who contended that it was certainly healthier for the living Catholics that the dead *heretic* should rot beneath the ground, than taint the atmosphere by decaying above it! The priests have constantly and violently opposed marriages between Mexicans and foreigners, unless they were Catholics."

It thus appears that Popery, in Mexico as everywhere else, is one of the chief hindrances to political as well as social prosperity. Interference with free nations, and the efforts of Protestant missionary enterprise, with the introduction of the sacred scriptures, will alone provide the means for the elevation of Mexico in the scale of civilization and political influence. The war with the United States Mr. Mayer justly considers has given an impulse which will lead to favourable results:

"Nevertheless, amid all these sad excuses for insufficiency, we may congratulate Mexico upon the effort which she is now making to redeem herself from the past opprobrium. The war with the United States has taught her many things, social as well as political. Education is beginning to be more valued and extended. Periodicals and newspapers are more freely published and diffused. Their leading articles and scientific communications show that new classes of writers as well as politicians are coming readily into the field in a period of assured peace and order. These two elements of national progress will enable Mexico to become acquainted with herself; and when her students disclose the result of their discoveries, we shall be glad to see our imperfect but honest efforts superseded by a work that will confer honour upon Spanish science and literature."

Of the resources of the country, its mines, agriculture, manufactures, commerce, finances, its constitution, laws, and social life, valuable details are presented in Mr. Mayer's book. A glowing description is given

of the capabilities of a region hitherto so grievously neglected:—

"The geographical position of Mexico, when considered in connexion with its agricultural riches and metallic wealth, is perhaps the most remarkable in the world. A comparatively narrow strip of land, possessing all the climates of the world, is placed midway between the two great bodies of the northern and southern continents of America, and midway, also, between the continents of Europe and Asia. In its central region it extends only five or six hundred miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific, while, at its southern end, it is swiftly crossed by means of its rivers or by railways, which, it is alleged, may be easily constructed. In the midst of this unrivalled territory, in the lap of the great plateau or table land, and far removed from unhealthy coasts, lies the beautiful city of Mexico, a natural focus of commerce, wealth and civilization. Such a picture of natural advantages cannot but strike us with admiration and hope. If ever there was a capital destined by nature to form the centre of a great nation, if not to grasp at least a large share of the North American, European, South American and Oriental trade, it unquestionably is the city of Mexico. Raised as she is far above the level of the sea, and inaccessible by rivers, the development of her destiny may be postponed until genius shall inlay her valleys and ravines with railways, and thus connect her for ever with the two coasts. But can we doubt that this mechanical miracle will be performed? It is not for us to say whether it shall be the work of the present generation, or of the present race in Mexico. It seems to be the law of nature that nations, like men, must advance or be trodden under foot. The vast army of industrious mankind is ever marching. Nor can we doubt that unless Mexico learns wisdom from the past, and abandoning the paltry political strife which has hitherto crushed her industrial energy, follows in the footsteps of modern civilization, her fate will be sure and speedy. The attention of the world is now riveted upon this region as the natural mistress of the Atlantic and Pacific. If Mexico covers the eastern and western slopes of her Cordillera with an intelligent, progressive and peaceful population, invited from abroad to amalgamate with her own races under the operation of permanent laws and wholesome government, the change may be slow and her power may be preserved. But if she will persist in the mad career of folly which has characterized her since her independence, she will not be able to resist the gradual and inevitable encroachments from the north, from Europe, and from the new establishments which are rapidly growing up on the Isthmus of Panama. These new foundations, based on the incalculable wealth of California, will be fostered by means hitherto undreamed of in the wildest commerce of the world, and unless Mexico shall avail herself of their salutary monitions they will finally absorb both her people and her nationality."

Mr. Mayer's work contains many notices of the wonderful antiquarian remains of Mexico. There are many parts of the country still little known to Europeans, and in the mountainous districts there are Indian tribes in a condition little removed from their ancient barbarism. A list of the ascertained Indian tribes contains above a hundred and fifty names, but it is probable that many of these are rather distinguished by diversity of residence than difference of language or character. The volume concludes with an account of the State of California, and a statement of its condition since its annexation to the American Republic. Both volumes contain numerous engravings of the scenery, localities, antiquities, costumes, and other objects which can be exhibited by pictorial art. The author's official position and political connexions also have enabled him to supply many statistical documents which increase the value of his work.

NOTICES.

How Monastic, Poems, Songs, and Ballads. By William Jones, Author of 'Lays and Ballads of French History.' Masters.

SOME of the poems in this volume have already appeared in various periodicals, and are reprinted, with additional pieces. Of the songs and ballads several have been set to music, and have had considerable popularity. While there are many pieces scarcely worthy of being put into this more permanent form, the volume is on the whole one of the most pleasing collections of poetry we have lately met with. The cheerful and genial spirit of the book secures favourable attention, even where the poetical merit is less remarkable. As specimens of the kindly feeling of the man, we may refer to the lines on 'The Sorrows of the Poor':—

"The Poor Man hath a lonely lot,
To wretchedness allied,
His very being is forgot,
Among the sons of pride.
He rises with the morning light,
And toils until the fall of night,
A scanty meal to gain;
Then lays his wearied head to rest,
But anxious thoughts disturb his breast,
—To slumber is in vain.

"The cold neglect, the withering scorn,
That meet him on his way,
The spirits bow'd, and sinews worn
By premature decay;
A brow o'ershadow'd by despair,
The trembling gait produc'd by care,
The constant dread of ill;
These mingle with his ev'ry dream,
And hope hath no consoling gleam
To pleasant thoughts instil.

"Alas, to him, the changeful earth
Hath features ever sad,
For when the summer wakes its mirth,
He only is not glad;
For what to him is nature's smile,
That may another's heart beguile,
But cannot pierce the shed
Where he is wasting life away,
Unmindful of the night or day,
So long it brings him bread!

"God's blessing on the verdant fields,
When sunshine dwelleth there,
And ev'ry flow'r that fragrance yields,
Becomes more sweetly fair!
In truth 'tis beautiful to view;
But rip'ning corn and violet's hue,
Are hidden from the poor;
They cannot watch the seasons' change,
To them all blithesome scenes are strange,
All sense of joy is o'er!

"Within a dark and fetid room,
Through sickness, and in age,
They labour on, and pass in gloom
Their life's remaining stage.
The slaves of want,—while those who have,
And from the depths of woe could save,
Evade their haggard mien;
Nor mark the signet death hath plac'd,
Where many a sorrow can be trac'd
And painful years be seen.

"The poor—ah, mock not those who weep,
The wretched and the lone;
For Heav'n doth surely record keep,
When human aid is gone.
And at the bridal feast the guest
May be the mortal most unlust
Among his fellows here.
Then cheer the poor man's solitude,
And smooth the briars on his road
To kindlier homes elsewhere!"

The lines on 'Poor Authors' might have been written for an anniversary of the Literary Fund, and would have pleased the generous founders of that institution. This is the last verse:—

"Oh, ye, whose gen'rous cares assuage
The sick, oppress'd, the pains of age,
May Genius too your zeal engage,
When toil-oppress'd.
Extend the hand to suffer'd worth,
And from the den of want lead forth
The gifted children of the earth,
Least worldly wise or blest!"

The principal poem, or series of poems, entitled 'How Monastic,' contains some excellent passages:—

"The Monks were guardians of the soil
When darkness veil'd the land,
And gave to persevering toil
The labours of the hand:
No trifling obstacle could foil
Each patient working hand.

"They drain'd the marsh, th' usurping flood
Within its bed confin'd
Made smiling fields where forests stood,
To all some use assign'd,
And in their own green solitude
Fresh loveliness enshrin'd.

"And commerce to their fostering care
Owes tributary love;
To spread each serviceable ware
They would their brethren move.
Their handicraft and travail rare
What relies yet can prove!

"The bridge that spann'd the water's breast,
Was oft the work of those
Accus'd of weak inglorious rest,
But whose too brief repose
Was dedicate to deeds, at best
That should disarm their foes.

"The goodly piles the fathers wrought
By skill surpassing grace'd,
Time still had left with beauty fraught,
If man had not defac'd,
And to the ground those fabrics brought
That toilsome years had trac'd.

"While baron, knight, and franklin wag'd
Their conflicts far and wide,
And war, the worst of ills presag'd,
The arts were cast aside,
To be by peaceful monks engag'd,
And worthily applied.

"The land gave forth its golden grain
With each revolving year
The trees well prun'd, nor ear'd in vain
Their ample fruits would bear;
And spots in ruin, would again
A smiling aspect wear.

"The monks were tillers of the ground,
Their acres far outspread
For all the neighb'ring country round,
Abundant stores would shed.
While there the poor man labour found,
And hunger too was fed.

"Full oft the grange a park contain'd
With fatten'd deer well stor'd,
From whence a buck was oft obtain'd
To grace the convent board,
For social cheer was well sustain'd
With all it could afford.

"Fair was the abbey grange! A spot
For contemplation meet,
Where all the cares of life forgot,
Right tranquilly and sweet
The monk could bless his favour'd lot,
In such a calm retreat."

Rather inconsistent with this account is the author's well-known song of 'The Monks of Old,' beginning,—

"Many have told of the Monks of Old,
What a saintly race they were,
But 'tis most true, that a merrier crew,
Could scarce be found elsewhere:
For they sung and laugh'd,
And the rich wine quaff'd,
And liv'd on the daintiest cheer!

"And some would say, that throughout the day,
O'er the missal alone they would pore,
But only I ween, when the flock were seen,
They thought of their ghostly lore:
For they sung and laugh'd,
And the rich wine quaff'd,
When the rites of their faith were o'er!"

In the use of the long ballad metre Mr. Jones has good skill, as is shown in his 'Agincourt,' 'King Pepin,' and other pieces. The volume is embellished with engravings of Kenilworth, Guy's Cliff, Charlecote, and other places in Warwickshire, the scenes and history of which are favourite themes with the author.

Barriers to the National Prosperity of Scotland; or, An Inquiry into some of the Immediate Causes of Modern Social Evils. By B. Alister. Edinburgh: Johnston and Hunter.

THE author of this volume points out various circumstances in the past history and present state of the social institutions of Scotland, which he considers opposed to sound principles of political economy, and which consequently act as barriers to national prosperity. Among the evils described, the chief place is occupied by those arising out of the legal rights of the landed proprietors. To the laws of hypothec and of entail separate chapters are devoted, and their pernicious effects are described. The game laws are also discussed, not omitting reference to the attempts of Highland lairds to shut out the public from immense tracts of country which are turned into deer forests. Mr. Alister alleges that the game statutes bid fair to extinguish the Highland race. Against the extended forma-

tion of sheep-walks he declaims with indignant fervour. The spirit and purpose of this part of the work may be gathered from the mottoes prefixed to the volume, in one of which M. Michelet says, "the conversion of small holdings into large farms, which ruined Rome, has destroyed Scotland." And from another great historian, Sismondi, this sentence is quoted, "It was during this same period that peace and prosperity fostered the colossal growth of a few fortunes; of those *latifundia*, or vast domains, which, according to Pliny the Elder, were the destruction of Italy, and of the empire." The cruel hardships inflicted on the Highland population by their forcible ejection from their native scenes, are described in energetic language. We lately noticed in the public journals a letter from the Marquis of Breadalbane, denying the correctness of Mr. Alister's statements, so far as the Breadalbane estates are concerned. The anxiety shown by so patriotic and estimable a nobleman to disavow participation in the evils described, is a striking testimony to the general truth of Mr. Alister's statements, and brings out more forcibly the charges made against the Highland proprietors as a body. Although there is a spirit of exaggeration and of prejudice occasionally displayed, there are many statements and arguments in Mr. Alister's book worthy of study and consideration. The concluding remarks on 'the Bothy system,' reveal a state of degradation unknown not only in the rudest agricultural districts of England, but among the peasantry of half barbarous countries.

Notes, Critical, Explanatory, and Practical, on the Book of Daniel; with an Introductory Dissertation. By the Rev. Albert Barnes. Edited by the Rev. Ebenezer Henderson, D.D. 2 vols. Knight and Co.

OF all modern commentators on the Bible, Albert Barnes, of Philadelphia, is deservedly the most popular. Several English editions were published of the early volumes of his 'Notes on the New Testament,' but for the author's sake we are glad that he has in his later publications taken advantage of the copyright law, and the present work is also issued under his direct sanction. The Notes on Daniel form a valuable companion work to those on the Apocalypse, and are marked by the same learned research, critical acumen, and sterling sense. The introductory dissertation presents an historical and critical notice of the book of Daniel. Weakness of health and impaired sight, induced by his literary labours, have rendered the revision of the work by an editor necessary, and it could not have fallen into more capable and sympathizing hands. Dr. Henderson, in his brief preface note, justly praises the work as likely to prove "an efficient aid to ministers in their preparation for the exercises of the pulpit, to teachers in the study of their scriptural lessons, and to the Christian public at large in their search after divine truth." We trust that Mr. Barnes has benefited by his recent visit to Europe, and that he will be able to continue his valuable annotations on the Holy Scriptures.

The Colonel: A Story of Fashionable Life. By the author of 'The Perils of Fashion.' 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

THERE is nothing in the story nor in the style of this work to raise it much above the level of ordinary novels. The usual scenes of what is called fashionable life are introduced, with passages of love and other passions which occupy a prominent place in books of fiction. The heroine here falls in love with the father of an admirer while he is pleading his son's cause, and she marries him, and is most happy in spite of disparity of years. 'Better an old man's darling than a young man's slave,' seems to be the moral to be pointed by this arrangement. An impostor gains her money for a time, from passing himself off successfully as a long lost sailor brother, who had run away to sea as a boy, but is at last exposed by the reappearance of the real Simon Pure. In the last chapter are some good remarks on governesses, their qualifications, and their treatment in English families.

SUMMARY.

In a series of school-books entitled *Grammar School Classics* (Whitaker and Co.), a volume contains the works of Horace, with English notes, by the Rev. A. J. Maclean, M.A., Head Master of King Edward's School, Bath. It is an abridgement of the larger edition in the 'Bibliotheca Classica,' edited by Mr. Long and Mr. Maclean, of which we gave a favourable notice at the time of its appearance (*ante*, p. 383, 'L. G.,' April 16, 1853). Those parts of the larger work are retained which are most suitable for educational use and general perusal. The chief fault we found with the Horace in the 'Bibliotheca Classica' was, that it seemed to be too exclusively prepared for the use of critical scholars, and not for the illustration of an author so universally popular.

Under the title of *Sketches in Ultramarine* (2 vols., Addey and Co.), by James Hannay, author of 'Singleton Fontenoy,' are collected a series of papers on nautical subjects, some of which were formerly published in the 'United Service Magazine.' Mr. Hannay served in the navy from the spring of 1840 till August, 1845, and was during that time on the Mediterranean station. Some of his sketches give a tolerable idea of the naval life of our own day, but there is too much straining after effect in the literary delineation. Some of the best scenes are spoiled by the style in which they are described. Where the author tells most simply what he has seen and heard the book is amusing and effective. Mr. Hannay should have tried more thoroughly to sink the efforts of the *littérateur* in the reminiscences of the sailor.

A collection of *Songs and Ballads*, by Henry Grazebrook (Whitaker and Co.), contains some pieces, sentimental and humorous, which may please some readers, but have not much poetical merit.

Miss Catherine Sinclair has collected a number of her periodical tracts into a volume entitled *London Homes*, from the subject of one of the papers on the state of the poor in the metropolis. Some striking facts are presented, which the author describes as having been derived from several works 'on the Rookeries of London,' and from the secretary of the Mendicity Society. From an introductory notice by the publisher (Bentley), with regard to the circulation of Miss Sinclair's works in America, it appears that she has more honour there than in her own country. Of her last novel, 'Beatrice,' above a hundred thousand copies, it is said, were sold in a few weeks, a success unprecedented, and exceeding even that of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' in England. The strong feeling in the United States against Popery gave impulse to the sale, as the anti-slavery feeling did to Mrs. Stowe's novel in England. It might be well for human prosperity and progress if the two phases of feeling, indicated by the sale of these works, were more equally distributed in the two countries.

In two volumes, and a supplement, is published a large collection of original Scottish songs for the social circle, *Whistle-Binkie* (Robertson, Glasgow). The songs have been published in parts during a period of fifteen years, and the editor justly remarks that "the work, taken altogether, presents a remarkable instance of the universality of that peculiar talent for song for which Scotland has always been distinguished." We can scarcely add that the present volumes will raise our estimate of the national genius in that pleasing department of literature. The biographical notices of the poets are in general more worth reading than their poems. Numerous portraits and autographs add to the interest of the work. There are a few pieces worthy of taking rank with the masterpieces of Scottish song, but the bulk of 'Whistle-Binkie' is not of merit sufficient to attract permanent notice.

Many of the pleasant old fables of classic mythology are collected and told in familiar language by Nathaniel Hawthorne, the American writer, in a book, *Tanglewood Tales for Girls and Boys*, being a second wonder-book, with illustrations (Chapman and Hall). 'The Minotaur,' 'The Pygmies,' 'The Dragon's Teeth,' 'Circe's Palace,' and 'The Golden

Fleece,' are among the legends described by the author, in an animated style, and with suitable comments for young people. A more useful, if not equally entertaining juvenile book, is *A Child's History of the World; or, Glimpses of the World's History*, by Mrs. Percy Sinnett (Longman and Co.) The book is written in the form of familiar letters to a child, and in its style and subjects it is well adapted for the instruction and amusement of juvenile readers. The author states that she looked in vain for a comprehensive sketch of general history for the use of her own children, and she has prepared a work which many parents and teachers will find useful.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Book (The) and its Story, 12mo, cloth, 3s.
Bouchier's Manna in the House, Matthew and Mark, 6s.
— Luke, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
Bythner's Hebrew and Chaldee Grammar, 8vo, 5s. 6d.
Cameron's Romance of Military Life, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
Crabb's (G.) Dictionary of General Knowledge, 5th ed., 9s.
De Porquet's Histoire de France, 12mo, reduced, 3s. 6d.
— Histoire de Napoleon, 12mo, reduced, 3s. 6d.
Designs of Gold, Silver, Copper, and Iron Work, folio, 4s.
Earl's Native Races of Indian Archipelago, Vol. 1, 10s. 6d.
Eliot's (S.) History of the Early Puritans, 2 vols., £1 5s.
Entries; or, Leaves from a Clergyman's Note Book, 3s. 6d.
Family Prayers, by author of Faithful Promiser, 3s. 6d.
Flowers in their Season, £1 1s.
Fosbery (T. V.) Hymns, 3rd edition, 12mo, cloth, 6s. 6d.
Garden Beauties, imp. 8vo, boards, £1 11s. 6d.
Gatherings from the Orchard, imp. 8vo, £1 11s. 6d.
Jarvis's Introduction to the History of the Church, £1 1s.
Jones's (B.) Adventures in Australia, 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.
Kelke's (W. H.) Family Prayers, 12mo, cloth, 4s.
Miller (Roger), by G. Orme, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 2s.
Moseley's Sandgate as a Residence for Invalids, 8vo, 6s.
Noble's (D.) Psychological Medicine, post 8vo, 7s. 6d.
O'Sullivan's (Rev. S.) Remains, 2 vols. 8vo, cloth, £1 10s.
Poole's (Jabez) Psalter, 4to, cloth, 5s.
Pratt's (W. Tidd) Charitable Tracts Act, 12mo, boards, 3s.
Tayler's (H. J.) Greek Grammar, new edition, 12mo, 4s.
Thorne's Builder's Perpetual Guide, 8vo, cloth, 4s.
Voipe's Memoir of an Ex-Capuchin, 12mo, cloth, 5s.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

SECTION A.—(Mathematical and Physical Science.)

President.—The Dean of Ely, F.R.S.
Vice-President.—W. R. Grove, Esq., F.R.S.; Col. Sabine, F.R.S.; Rev. Dr. Scoresby, F.R.S.
Secretaries.—Professor Stevelly; Professor Stokes, F.R.S.; Benj. Blaydes Haworth, Esq.; J. D. Sollitt, Esq.; J. Welsh, Esq.
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THE business of this Section opened with an apology for the absence of the President, the Dean of Ely, the eminent Cambridge mathematician not having availed himself of the compliment of filling the A chair. The sixth continuation of the 'Report on Luminous Meteors,' by the Rev. Professor Powell, also absent, was read by Professor Stevelly, one of the Secretaries. It went to show that a number of observations had been made and communicated by friends, but the Professor had not yet found time to digest and classify them; he looked forward, however, with hope to be able to take them in hand at no distant period. The records of observed Meteors were tabulated under three general heads:—I. Older Observations recorded of Luminous Meteors. II. Continuation of Catalogue of Luminous Meteors from the Report of 1851-2. III. An Appendix, containing letters and drawings, giving a more detailed account of some more remarkable Meteors. The number of meteors tabulated under the second head was very large. The records were preserved under the following heads:—1. Date; 2. Hour and minute when seen; 3. Appearance, or magnitude; 4. Brightness and colour; 5. Train, or sparks; 6. Velocity, or duration; 7. Direction, or altitude; 8. General Remarks; 9. Place; 10. Observer; 11. Reference. The reading of this report gave rise to considerable discussion. So varied are the phenomena, that it will be no easy task to reduce them to theory. Mr. Sollitt, of Hull, read a paper 'On the Composition and Figuring of the Specula for Reflecting Telescopes.' The novelty of the author's

plan consisted in introducing a little nickel in the tin, as helping to produce a reflector of more polish. Lord Rosse's proportions of metal are, copper 32, tin 14.9. Mr. Sollitt used, as being preferable, copper 32, tin 15.5, nickel 2. He also found a little arsenic useful in preventing oxidation. After slightly noticing the casting and grinding, the author referred with some detail to the composition and figuring of the polisher. The composition used by him was pitch and resin, with a small admixture of flour. The surface he grooved with concentric equidistant circular grooves—not in parallel and cross grooves. These concentric grooves he crossed by radial grooves, widening as they receded from the centre, so as to be bounded by curved outlines. By giving proper form and dimensions to these curves the parabolic form could be most accurately given to the speculum in the process of polishing. The form of the curved outlines of these radial grooves he found should be parabolic.

Dr. Scoresby communicated his observations 'On the Surface Temperature, and Great Currents of the North Atlantic and Northern Oceans.' The observations generalised upon by the author had been derived from the temperature of the ocean, chiefly at the surface, had been made in the Greenland Sea, the North Sea, and a considerable belt across the North Atlantic, during a series of passages chiefly by sailing vessels between England and New York. Dr. Scoresby directed the present attention of the Section to the observations made in the last of these localities. Of the passages just noted, sixteen in number, four were performed by the author, and twelve by an American navigator, Capt. J. C. Delano, an accurate scientific observer. The observations on Surface Temperature discussed amount to 1153, gathered from about 1400. Usually Capt. Delano recorded six observations each day during the voyage, at intervals of four hours. Seven of the passages were made in the spring of the year,—two in the summer,—one in autumn,—and three in winter. Taking the middle day of each passage, the mean day at sea was found to be May 18th or 19th,—a day fortunately coincident in singular nearness with the probable time of the mean annual oceanic temperature. The author had laid down the tracks of the ship in each of the voyages on a chart of Mercator's projection, and the principal observations on Surface Temperature were marked in their respective places. The observations were then tabulated for meridians of 2° in breadth, from Cape Clear, longitude 10° W., to the eastern point of Long Island, longitude 72° W.,—embracing a belt of the average breadth of 220 miles, or a stretch of about 2600 miles across the Atlantic. The results were the following:—1. Highest Surface Temperature northward of latitude 40°, 74°; lowest 32°; range 32°.—2. Mean Surface Temperature, as derived from the means of each meridional section, 56°, whilst the mean atmospheric temperature for the corresponding period was 54° 2'.—3. Range of Surface Temperature within each meridional section of 2°, 8½° at the lowest, being in longitude 20°–22° W., and at the greatest 36°, being within the meridian of 62°–64° W.—4. Up to longitude 40° the Surface Temperature never descended below 50°;—the average lowest of the sixteen meridional sections being 51° 58', and the average range 11° 3'.—5. In the succeeding fifteen sections, where the lowest temperature was 32°, the average lowest was 37° 1', and the average range 29° 7'. This remarkable difference in the temperature of the eastern and western halves of the Atlantic passage, the author said was conclusively indicative of great ocean currents, yielding a mean depression of the lowest meridional temperature from 51° 58' to 37° 1', or 14° 8', and producing a mean range of the extreme of temperature on the western side of almost three the amount of the extremes on the eastern side,—or, more strictly, in the proportion of 29° 7' to 11° 3'. The author drew attention to a diagram in which he had laid down along the entire belt curves showing the whole range of the lowest depressions of temperature and highest elevation, with the means at each longitude distinguished by different shading; and pointed out how the inspection of

this as well as of the tabulated results, affords striking indications of the two great currents, one descending from the Polar, the other ascending from the Tropical regions, with their characteristic changes of cold and heat. In classifying the results, the author considered the entire belt of the Atlantic track of the passages as divided into six divisions of 10° of longitude each, and these into meridional stripes of 2° each, omitting the two first degrees next the European end, or about 80 miles westward of Ireland to 72° W., or about the same distance west of New York. To each of these six divisions he directed attention, pointing out the conclusions to be derived from each. The curves approaching each other and running nearly parallel through the western half with great regularity, showing the variations and range to be much less, while throughout the eastern half, the widening of the distance, and the irregular form of the extreme curves, showed the influence of the two currents very remarkably. The author then proceeded to draw conclusions, showing that sometimes the cold current from the north plunged beneath the warmer current from the south. Sometimes they divided,—the colder keeping inshore along the American coast, the other keeping out, and forming the main Gulf-stream. Sometimes where they met, they interlaced in alternating stripes of hot and cold water; sometimes their meeting caused a deflexion,—as where one branch of the Gulf-stream was sent down to the south-east of Europe and north of Africa, and another branch sent up past the British Islands to Norway and Scandinavia, by the Polar current setting down to the east of Newfoundland. The author next proceeded to consider the uses in the economy of nature of these great oceanic currents. The first that he noticed was the equalizing and ameliorating influence which they exercised on the temperature of many countries. Of this he gave several examples. Thus, our own country, though usually spoken of as a very variable climate, was subject to far less variations of range of temperature than many others in similar latitudes,—which was chiefly from the general influence of the northern branch of the Gulf-stream setting up past these islands. He had himself, on one occasion, in the month of November, known the temperature to rise no less than 52° in forty-eight hours,—having previously descended in a very few days through a still greater range; while in these countries the extensive range between mean summer and winter temperature scarcely in any instance exceeds 27° , and in many places does not amount to nearly as much. Another advantage derived from these currents was, a reciprocation of the waters of high and low latitudes,—thus tending to preserve a useful equalizing of the saltiness of the waters, which otherwise, by evaporation in low latitudes, would soon become too salt to perform its intended functions. Next he pointed out their use in forming sand-banks, which became highly beneficial as extensive fields for the maintenance of various species of the finny tribes, as in the great banks of Newfoundland. Next, this commingling of the waters of several regions tended to change and renew, from time to time, the soil of these banks,—which, like manuring and working our fields, was found to be necessary for preserving these extensive pastures for the fish. Lastly, by bringing down from Polar regions the enormous masses of ice which, under the name of icebergs, were at times found to be setting down towards Tropical regions, they tend at the same time to ameliorate the great heats of those regions, and to prevent the Polar regions from becoming blocked up with accumulating mountains of ice which, but for this provision, would soon be pushed down as extensive glaciers, rendering whole tracts of our temperate zones uninhabitable wilds. Dr. Scoresby concluded by pointing out several meteorological influences of these currents, by causing extensive fogs and winds, more or less violent.

The great interest attaching to this subject made it to be regretted that Professor Edward Forbes was not present to speak in reference to the action of currents of different temperatures on the fauna and flora of the ocean. The business of the day was concluded by the reading of an elaborate

paper 'On Dynamical Sequences in Kosmos,' by Mr. W. J. M. Waterston, which the President of the Association considered, notwithstanding its ingenious and valuable suggestions, should be received with care, so far as its scientific statements were concerned.

On Friday, the proceedings of the Section commenced with a paper by Robert Russell, Esq., 'On the action of the winds which veer from the south-west to west, and from north-west to north.' In almost all the violent storms which occur in the British islands, the currents above seldom coincide with those at the surface of the ground, which statement also often applies to ordinary weather, when there was little atmospheric disturbance. On previous occasions, the author had endeavoured to show that many of the phenomena of our storms would ultimately be explained by the mutual action of the under and upper currents. He had never seen an instance of a British storm that admitted of being explained on the rotatory theory, and he thought this theory altogether erroneous as applied to our high latitudes. A south-east current in the upper regions of the atmosphere seldom occurred in Britain, but south-east surface winds were common in moist and rainy tracts of weather. In these circumstances, however, an upper current of S.W. overlies the S.E., and supplies it with rain. Direct E. winds prevailing not only at the surface, but at those atmospheric heights where the cirrus clouds are formed, are much more common than from the S.E., and undivided currents from the N.E. are still more frequent. A west wind seldom or never blows below when an east wind prevails above; but on the contrary, it is very common for a S.W. current to prevail above, when a N.E., E., or S.E. wind may blow furiously below. The solution of many of the primary phenomena of those storms, which commence in Britain with easterly winds and terminate with westerly or northerly winds, is to be found in the mutual action of the upper and lower currents moving in different directions, and not in the principle of rotation. A current from the N.W. at the surface of the earth never blows for any length of time with an upper current from the S.W.; but in certain tracts of weather it is very common for a S.W. under-current to prevail, while a N.W. or N. wind is blowing above. It has been noticed that gales begin to blow from the S.W. or S., and afterwards veer round by W. with great violence to N.W. or N. In these there can be no rotation, as the S.W. wind flows in one broad stream over the island, and no observations can be found to indicate a recurring of the S.W. wind. In the class of storms where the wind goes through the course of S.W., W., to N.W., an upper current from the N.W. prevails. The veering, he considered, may be accounted for in the same way as variations which may be observed in the summer months, and which arise, he thought, from an intermixture and interchange, which is effected along the course of the wind, the hot air rising up and the cold air descending. A similar phenomena is to be seen in the commingling of water. This, too, he believed, affords a proximate explanation of many of our easterly gales; and so the reversal of the lower current by the heat of the sun during certain states of our atmosphere in summer is maintained by the constant ascent and descent of the air of the two opposite currents, so far as the south wind extends. Every gust of the breeze must be considered as the effect of vertical gyrations caused by air of different specific gravities. As soon as the sun lessens his heat, the disturbing influences are diminished, and at last night brings a calm at the earth's surface, while the north current above still flows on. The length of time which the wind will blow from the S.W. is very uncertain. It commonly varies from eight to forty-eight hours, and in some cases it continues for days. The wind at once turns round to the N.W., when the barometer again begins to rise. The cause of this change of wind to the N.W., he believed, is merely the upper current resuming its way at the surface of the earth by putting the thin stratum of air which has been following from

the S.W. into the same course as the current above. The temporary eruption of the S.W. wind, which has been heated over the warm ocean and replenished by moisture, appeared to him to be a parallel phenomena to the southerly breezes which play over our island during the day in summer when the N. wind is prevailing. These dry breezes are daily called into action by the solar rays disturbing the equilibrium of the air in the lower depths of the atmosphere where rarefaction takes place. In this manner, then, may the moist S.W. winds from the Atlantic be hurried over the continent of Europe, and when once set in motion they possess a self-sustaining force in mingling with the dry cold current which overstratifies them. Although it may be against general theory and belief, he thought that the returning polar current in our latitude is much more frequently from the N.W. than from the N.E. Both Mr. Green and Mr. Mason were of opinion from their aeronautic experience that in whatever direction the wind might blow at the surface of the earth, at 10,000 feet the current was invariably from some point between N. and W. This opinion was no doubt carried too far, but it clearly showed the frequency of the N.W. wind above the lower currents. Many of the storms which begin to blow from the S.W., and veer round to N.W., are apparently caused by the mutual action of two currents from these quarters stratified over one another. In these storms, too, the barometer does not usually give much warning of their approach, indeed the mercury will sometimes be actually on the rise when cirro-stratus cloud, the precursor of the S.W. wind, is already formed along the western horizon. On the contrary, the storms which come on with easterly winds give notice of their approach by a fall in the mercury.

The Secretary read a provisional report from Professor Sylvester, 'On the Theory of Determinants,' and 'A Communication from Lieut.-General Sir John Burgoyne, regarding the progress made in the publication of the Trigonometrical Survey.' William Grey, Esq., gave an account and exhibited a drawing of several concentric Irises seen from a peak of Snowdon. These were opposite to the sun, and one great peculiarity was, that no shadow of himself was exhibited on the Iris, although there was a shadow of the peak. M. Claudet read a paper, illustrated by several stereotypes and photographic pictures, 'On the Angle to be given to Binocular Photographic Pictures for the Stereoscope.' And Mr. John Welsh read a report 'On the mode of Graduation of Standard Thermometers at the Kew Observatory.'

The Section was adjourned till Monday, when Professor Phillips renewed the proceedings by reading a paper 'On Magnetic Phenomena in Yorkshire.'

The object of this communication was to state some few remarkable results touching the measures of magnetic direction in Yorkshire, and some investigations which were intended to show the relation of the change in the direction of the lines which represented numerically the features of the physical geography of the district. Observations which had been made by him at York, during a residence of nearly a quarter of a century, showed that in regard to the declination or variation of the compass, or the angle between the true and magnetic meridians, that in that time it did not exceed ten minutes of angle. It was now at York 24 deg. 5 min., and at the beginning of his observations was 24 deg. 15 min. He did not mean to say that this observation was perfectly accurate, but it was within two or three minutes of angle. He had also taken particular pains to ascertain the magnetic dip and inclination. This, as measured from the horizontal line in the plane of the meridian, is at this time a little above 70 deg., and appears to be slowly but unsteadily diminishing. His first accurate observations on this subject were commenced in 1837, when he obtained that beautiful instrument, Mr. Charles Robinson's dip circle. With this instrument he has surveyed the country, and determined the magnetic dip at stations by a series of observations. After reciting the nature of these

observations and the computations which had been made upon them, a diagram was shown, in which a straight line, AB, represented the result of this computation. It passes through the three calculated mean points and near to all the others, and indicates an annual diminution of the dip of 2 min. 54 sec., a result only a little different from that found in 1847 by Colonel Sabine, for Britain, and Dr. Lloyd, for Ireland. To make this result perfectly accurate, it should be corrected for any periodical deviations from the mean of the year, to which the particular months or the particular hours where the observations were made might be subject. The data for this, however, he had hardly sufficiently ascertained, but the Greenwich observations appeared probable that the magnetic dip has in each year a maximum about the months of May and June, and a minimum in the autumn. The Professor then exhibited maps, having marked upon them the isoclinical lines of Yorkshire, which he had obtained on the graphic projection, and by the calculation known as least squares. From these maps it appeared that, on the eastern hills of Yorkshire, the isoclinical lines required to be drawn to the northward. In the vale of York they required to be drawn rather to the southward; while to the westward, the lines would run nearly parallel with the meridional line. With respect to the general conclusions arrived at, he remarked that magnetic and diamagnetic effects on a suspended needle ought probably to be looked for as a simple consequence of the superposition and strata, and their pressure on one another. Looking at what had been done with magnetism, and considering what had been stated by Colonel Sabine, that the moon as well as the sun had effects on magnetism, he must say that he thought the day would come when we should be able, by magnetism, to arrive at the nature of those substances beneath the thin crust of the earth's surface, and that over the red sandstone of England we should be able to see into the condition of coal measures without actually making a perforation.

Professor Plucker, of Bonn, read his paper on 'The new Laws of Magnetic and Diamagnetic Induction.' The paper related to the transition from magnetic attraction into diamagnetic repulsion, which takes place on mixed bodies when the power of the magnet increases. He had deduced, from a long series of facts, that by increasing this power the action on diamagnetic power augments more rapidly than the action on magnetic ones. This, however, had not been generally adopted, and last summer he had undertaken a series of experiments, which would give, he thought, to that law a more universal character and a more distinct description.

Mr. Grove read papers from Professor Matteucci, of Pisa, on 'The Distribution of Electrical Currents in the Rotating Disc of M. Arago;' on 'The Magnetism of Rotation in Masses of Crystallised Bismuth;' and on 'The Magnetism of Rotation developed in Masses formed of very small Insulated Metallic Particles.' This last paper showed that taking a mass of metallic particles insulated by a good insulating medium, and sending a current of magnetism through it, he got a rotation analogous to the rotation procured in a solid metallic mass. Professor Hodgkinson read a paper on 'The Elasticity of Crystalline Bodies,' and Mr. Grove a communication from Mr. J. J. Waterston, on 'The Density of Saturated Vapours and their Liquids at the Point of Transition.' The chief object of the experiments detailed in this paper was to ascertain if the law of density holds good up to that point, when, according to M. Cagniard de la Tour's interesting researches, the liquid condition seems suddenly to terminate. Mr. Grove then read another paper from Mr. J. J. Waterston, on 'A Law of Mutual Dependence between Temperature and Mechanical Force in Elastic Fluids.'

On Tuesday, the business of the concluding sitting of Section A was commenced by a paper from Professor Helmholtz, 'On the Mixture of Homogeneous Colours.' The author remarked that he had endeavoured to prove in a previous paper that mixture of pigments is not identical with the mixture of coloured light, and that these two pro-

ceedings give sometimes very different results as for the shade of the mixed colour. He had since made experiments not only with compound coloured light reflected from the surface of coloured bodies, but also with homogeneous prismatic colours. For the latter purpose he brought together two prismatic spectra of different direction in the same place, so that every coloured band of the one crossed under a right angle every band of the other. In this manner there were displayed at once all possible combinations of two homogeneous colours; and besides, the apparatus was so disposed that he could alter continuously by the proportion of mixture. By these experiments he obtained a curious result. He could find only a single field of mixed colours which, by bringing the intensity of the two spectra to a proper proportion, could be made white. It was that point where yellow and indigo are combined. He did not succeed, however, to produce white by combination of any other pair of homogeneous rays. The Professor then proceeded to relate his experiments, which showed the principle he had laid down, that the mixture of pigments is not identical with the mixture of coloured light.

Mr. Lawton, of Hull, presented some tabulated meteorological observations, made in the locality; and one or two other meteorological papers were read by the Secretary.

Professor Stevelly then read a communication from J. K. Watts, Esq., on 'Parhelia observed at St. Ives.' These were observed on the 15th of February, 1853, from about 12.20 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. The wind at the time was N.W., very slight, barometer 29.65, thermometer 31. The morning was clear, with a slight frost, and about noon a thin haze came over, and covered the sun, which had considerable power; there were a few scattered light clouds. At the time four mock suns or parhelia were very visible, situate at equal distances in a circle round the sun, displaying prismatic colours. Shortly afterwards two other mock suns appeared of a pale light. Each mock sun was as large as the real sun, and from the outer two of them streamed a line of pale light to some distance. The prismatic colours of the inner parhelia were splendid. At some distance from the inner circle appeared part of another circle nearly three-fourths formed. On this partly-formed circle, and immediately opposite to two of the parhelia on the inner circle, were two other parhelia of the same size. Immediately above to the north was an inverted arch. The circle and partly-formed circle were of a light brown colour on the outer edges, and of a violet red on the inner. The inverted arch was of a white light, having the outer edge tinged with red. A long straight line of white light passed from the sun on each side through the parhelia to some distance beyond. The wind being scarcely perceptible, the haze hung over the sun for a long time, and for upwards of two hours the parhelia were in splendour, and it was a considerable time afterwards before all traces had disappeared.

The business of the Section was concluded by an ingenious communication from Dr. Scoresby, 'On Deep-Sea Soundings, and Errors therein, from Strata of Currents, with Suggestions for their Investigations.' He set out by observing that the subject of deep-sea soundings was one which, lately, had become of great interest, inasmuch as recent soundings had tended to show that there were profundities in the sea much greater than any elevations on the surface of the earth, for a line had been veered to the extent of seven miles. He believed the first soundings beyond a mile were made by himself, when quite a youth, in the Arctic regions. Since then, in 1849, her Majesty's ship Pandora had obtained soundings in the North Atlantic, at 2060 fathoms. Capt. Basnet, in 1848, in the North Atlantic, got soundings at 3250 fathoms. In 1849, Lieut. Walsh, of the U.S. navy, got soundings at 5700, in the North Atlantic. But a much greater depth had been obtained by Captain Denham in the South Atlantic. In 1852, he got soundings at 7706 fathoms. After it had been let out to that depth it came to a pause. It was then raised a little, and then let out again, when it came

to a stop at precisely the same point. The line used was a silk one, one-tenth of an inch in diameter, weighing about one pound to every hundred yards, the plummet weighing about nine pounds, and being about eleven inches long. These were, perhaps, very favourable circumstances; but there were considerations connected with all deep-sea experiments which rendered these results extremely doubtful, and not only doubtful, but in some cases actually erroneous. This arose from the action of what he had, in a previous paper, spoken of as the strata currents of the ocean—that was, currents flowing beneath each other, in different ways, as he had shown in the case of the Gulf-streams and the Polar current. It would be evident that in the case of a sounding, where, as with Capt. Denham, a light lead required nine hours, twenty-four minutes, and forty-five seconds to run out, the action of these currents would affect the length of line run out, and the sounding could not be relied upon. If the sea were a stationary body, or if its currents were uniform movements of the entire mass of waters from the surface to the bottom, then the lead might be fairly expected to take a direct and perpendicular course downwards. But if, in the place of sounding, strata currents, so prevalent in the sea, should be running in different directions, or, what would have the same effect, if one stratum of water, say a superficial stratum, should be in motion, and the main body below at rest, no correct results could be derived. Dr. Scoresby then proceeded to show, illustrating his argument with diagrams, that under such circumstances the line would be carried away by the under current so as to make a bend, which, at great depths, might go to the extent of miles. He had repeatedly noticed this effect when in the Arctic Seas, in his youth, hunting the whale, and by noticing it had been able to strike many second harpoons, where the other whale fishers had been at fault. He had noticed that after a fish was struck, say at the edge of the ice, it had dived in an oblique direction under it, carrying out line for a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes, when there would be a tension of from half-a-ton to a ton on the line, and then pause for a short time. Then the fish would "take line" again, as if under the ice, and, perhaps, come up a-stern off the first boat. There could be no doubt that the second pulling out was owing almost entirely to the resistance of the water. But if the boat was in clear water, and run until the pause, then her head would, perhaps, incline to the right or left. The boats then went a-head of her, but he, instead of doing so, had always gone to perhaps treble the angle of acclination, and had, for the most part, been rewarded by his close proximity to the fish when it rose. Well, then, all circumstances showed that the currents of the sea had very considerable influence on the line when let out, and he came, then, to the consideration of a plan for the determination of the surface and relative strata currents. No doubt broad determinations as to great and decided currents and proximate results, by means of multiplied observations on currents of moderate velocities, were derivable from the ordinary process; but for really satisfactory results, far more accurate and conclusive processes needed to be instituted. And it would be well deserving, he thought, of an enlightened government of a maritime country especially to employ smaller war-vessels and officers in investigations on the subject, for which modes, he believed, might be made available, calculated to yield much useful and interesting information. Two leading processes appeared to him as being applicable to these determinations. First, the planting in particular positions of inquiry in the ocean, from an attendant vessel, buoys with flags, kept in their places by a resisting apparatus below the surface, which might be denominated a current measurer, and determining, after a night's action, for instance, the changes of their position from celestial observations. Then, secondly, placing a small boat upon the water during a calm, with the current apparatus for the determination of the relative set of strata currents. The current measurer attached to, and suspended by, a small wire, run off a reel fixed

in the bow of the boat, might be let down to various depths in succession, with a register thermometer attached at each new depth, when the motion of the boat and its direction, as shown by the position of a surface float or buoy, would, after but short intervals of time, indicate proximately the relative motion of the surface water, and the water at the several depths of the resisting apparatus below.

SECTION B.—(Chemical Science.)

President.—J. F. W. Johnston, M.A., F.R.S., Professor of Chemistry, Durham.
Vice-Presidents.—Dr. Faraday, F.R.S.; Rev. Wm. Vernon Harcourt, F.R.S.; Dr. Andrews, F.R.S.; Dr. Daubeny, F.R.S.; J. P. Gassiot, Esq., F.R.S.
Secretaries.—Professor Robert Hunt; Thomas J. Pearsall, Esq., F.C.S.; Henry Spence Blundell, Esq.
Committee.—W. R. Grove, Esq., F.R.S.; Dr. Cooper; Dr. Price, F.C.S.; Dr. Gladstone, F.R.S.; Wm. Sykes Ward, Esq., F.C.S.; A. Claudet, Esq., F.R.S.; Rev. Dr. Scoresby, F.R.S.; Henry Blundell, Esq. (the Mayor of Hull); J. D. Sollitt, Esq.; Wm. Gill Beadle, Esq.; Augustus Wm. Gaden, F.R.S.; George Gladstone, F.C.S.; Dr. Scofield; Rev. Thomas Exley, M.A.

PROFESSOR JOHNSTON, of Durham, the President of this Section, commenced the proceedings with a familiar exposition of the advantages of Chemistry, and of its applications to the various arts of civilized life. These remarks were peculiarly appropriate, as the communications to the present meeting were of an unusually practical character. Few of the purely scientific chemists connected with the Association had found their way to Hull, but those who were present attempted to make up the deficiency, by bringing forward a variety of small papers, principally on the collateral branches of chemistry, and by the spirited manner in which these were frequently discussed. Not that pure descriptive science was entirely forgotten. The President himself explained the narcotic principles of the coca leaf, which grows extensively on the Peruvian Andes, and is chewed by the inhabitants in the same way as tobacco and opium in other countries; and Dr. Gladstone read a paper 'On the Spontaneous Decomposition of a sample of Xyloidine,' which, after remaining unchanged for five years, had suddenly altered throughout its whole mass, with the production of certain gases, nitric acid and prussic acids, ammonia, and weak vegetable acid, water, gum, sugar, &c.

Mr. Robert Hunt's communications 'On the Chemical Action of Light' seemed to be the most interesting, at least judging by the numbers who crowded the theatre. On Thursday morning he read a report on the subject, in which he explained the three spectra—luminous, calorific, and actinic; and the means of cutting off certain rays by the use of coloured glasses. He had recently found that, contrary to previous experience, he could by certain arrangements obtain photographs by the chemical action of the yellow rays. He brought forward instances, too, of the protection of those parts of the sensitive plate which have been exposed to the influence of the red rays. An animated discussion ensued between the author of this report and Professor Stokes, who, after describing five different actions of light—the luminous, calorific, chemical, phosphorescent, and fluorescent—expressed his own conviction that they arise from one and the same cause, acting differently—functions, as it were, of the same power. He stated that if it could be clearly established that one set of rays had been cut off entirely from the others, it would at once settle the question in Mr. Hunt's favour, but this had not yet been done.

On Friday morning, Mr. Hunt gave a lengthy popular exposition of the various processes of Photography, illustrated by a number of very beautiful specimens, which greatly interested the audience. He described the influence of the solar rays on different sensitive preparations, explained the chromatotype, cyanotype, and chrysotype, and passing on to the salts of silver, he spoke in detail of all the processes of the calotype; of the methods of taking pictures on albuminized glass, on waxed paper, and on collodion. After this Mr. Claudet explained the whole process of the daguerreotype, while taking a view of the assembled audience. The subject was again very fully entered upon, by Professor Hunt, in a lecture which he gave on

Monday evening, in the Mechanics' Institute, when he explained a number of curious phenomena connected with light, illustrating them by numerous pictures, some of which, taken in a lunatic asylum, had been produced so instantaneously, as to exhibit the transient features of insanity.

There were two papers read on Thursday, which promised important results, in attacking diseases incident to the vegetable kingdom. Dr. Price stated that some vines which he had washed with a solution of the higher sulphides of calcium had been cured of the grape disease, and had remained untouched for two years, whilst the surrounding vineries had all suffered. Chevalier Claussen had preserved potatoes which were slightly attacked with the disease, by steeping them first in a very weak solution of sulphuric acid, and afterwards in lime water. If these two processes are found generally successful, the one will be an inestimable boon to the inhabitants of France, Spain, and Portugal; the other to all those to whom the potato forms an important article of culture or food.

Dr. Gladstone, in a paper 'On the Corrosion of Iron Ships by Sugar Cargoes,' showed the readiness with which sugar attacks the solid metal, dissolving it as the protoxide, from which, through the concurrent action of the air, the red oxide is deposited. He narrated experiments made on other metals, which proved that sugar attacked most of them, though not so much as iron, while it left the oxide untouched. An animated conversation arose among the audience as to the bearing of this on the use of iron ships for the transport of sugar, and it was concluded that the use of wooden planking, and paint made with red lead, would obviate the difficulty in a great measure.

Dr. Andrews, of Belfast, brought forward an ingenious instrument for graduating glass tubes, and Mr. George Lowe, C.E., explained the new method of purifying gas by means of the application of water in an instrument called the "scrubber." As respects analytical chemistry, Mr. Sollitt, of Hull, had examined the mud of the Humber, and Dr. Price exhibited to the Section improved methods of determining the amount of available chlorine contained in hypochlorites of lime, soda, or potash, and the commercial value of samples of the peroxide of manganese.

On Saturday the chemists had an opportunity of seeing the application of chemistry to the arts, in many manufactories about Wincolmlee, and the banks of the river Hull. A party of upwards of fifty gentlemen made an excursion to the Britannia Works, belonging to English's Patent Camphine Company. Here they saw the huge stills, in which the oil of turpentine is rectified from the resin, and in another building the whole process of manufacturing lined oil. The seed is first flattened between rollers, then ground by revolving millstones, then steamed, put in coarse bags, and subjected to immense pressure in a hydraulic machine. The oil is thus squeezed out, and the dry cakes are taken out of the bags, trimmed, and stacked up ready for sale. The oil is afterwards boiled in immense cauldrons, in order to make it dry more readily when used in painting. The Company makes its own gas on the premises, by roasting resin and oil, mixed with lime, in iron retorts. Under the same roof too, there is carried on a considerable manufacture of carpets and rugs, the worsted being spun and dyed there. The party afterwards visited other oil manufactories where different machinery is used, cement works, a brush manufactory, and an iron foundry.

Some important notices of matters connected with galvanism were given. Mr. Gassiot detailed a series of experiments, proving that a pressure of several hundred atmospheres does not prevent the decomposition of water, but that his metallic and thick glass tubes were frequently rent asunder by the restrained gases. Mr. Grove explained the means by which he had arrived at a conviction that gases do not conduct electricity, although flame certainly does. Dr. Andrews and Mr. Gassiot, who were present, spoke in confirmation of his conclusion. Mr. Walenn described Kukla's battery, and the Rev. Thomas Exley entered into a somewhat

abstruse disquisition on the cause of the transmission of electricity along conductors generally, and particularly as applied to the electric telegraph.

Mineralogy and chemical geology had special attention bestowed on them by two of the officers of the Section,—the President, whose well-deserved reputation in that department gave him weight, and Mr. Pearsall, one of the secretaries.

Mr. Pearsall had examined certain crystals of carbonate of lime, found by a captain on the coast of Africa, abreast of Ichaboe, and which were so sharp as to render walking over them almost impossible. He also explained some changes which had taken place in fossil wood, obtained from the submerged forest of Wawne, Holderness; and he described a number of very curious bodies that had formed on one side of a large tank, built of brick, in the Hull Water Works, and which he called "lime flowers." They had grown from the mortar, as calcareous tubes, sometimes a foot in length, expanding at the top into a sort of bulb, giving them all the appearance of petrified tulips. Professor Johnston explained the formation of the rotten-stone of Derbyshire, which he found to be that portion of marble which is insoluble in acids. He exhibited some which he had prepared from black marble, by dissolving out the carbonate of lime. His opinion was that the acid used in the laboratory of nature was that exuded from certain plants, acting through a long period of years. Mr. Blundell, the mayor of Hull, was able to give the Professor, and the Section generally, much further information on the use of rotten-stone, and the places where it is found. The much vexed question of the formation of magnesian limestone was also brought forward by Professor Johnston, who detailed observations made on the banks of the Tees. Professor Daubeny, Dr. Andrews, and Mr. Hopkins, all joined in the discussion. The President of the Section also finished the proceedings by a popular exposition of some of the causes—physical and chemical—of the diversities of soils.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

IN the official records and public intelligence of the day, an important place again begins to be occupied by the melancholy subject of cholera. The 'Gazette' has published an order in Council for putting in force the Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Act of 1848, to be applied to the whole of Great Britain, for six months from and after the 15th of September. The Board of Health have issued a public notification and an address to the community. The Archbishop of Canterbury has prepared a form of public prayer to be used in this time of visitation. The appeal to Divine assistance is right and seemly, but the act of humiliation and recognition of Divine rule loses much effect when so tardy and partial use is made of preventive means placed by Providence within the reach of human agency. It is hardly reasonable or consistent for prayers to be read by the clergy for protection from pestilence, while fees continue to be taken for the burial of the dead amidst the habitations of the living. Extramural sepulture, better sewerage, and other improvements in our civic arrangements, are loudly called for, and it does not seem likely that these benefits will be procured through the listless efforts of corporations and official boards. For many social reforms it would be well if a dictator's power could for a time be wielded, and it could not be in safer hands than those of the present able and energetic Home Secretary. This third invasion of the most terrible of modern epidemics may prove the occasion of good being educed out of evil, if it marks the commencement of a new era in the sanitary regulations of our great towns.

Modern chemists have laboured almost as zealously to produce diamonds, as the alchemists of old did to turn all metals into gold; and through the progress of science, it is said, they believe they have a reasonable chance of succeeding. Diamonds, it is known, consist of pure carbon; and it is therefore assumed that carbon may be made to produce diamonds. M. Despretz, member of the Academy

of Sciences at Paris, in a recent meeting of that body, detailed a series of experiments to which he had subjected some carbon coming from the calcination of sugar. He caused an electric pile, in which some platina wires were extended, to act on the carbon without intermission for the space of a month, and he then found the wires covered with a slight powder, which, on examination by a microscope, was seen to contain black and white crystals of the octahedral form. This powder, being experimented on, was found to possess the qualities that have heretofore exclusively appertained to the powder of diamonds. This is the nearest approach to the production of real diamonds which has yet been made, and even if it should not be found possible to carry it further, the making of the diamond dust will be of considerable commercial importance. Whether the action of the electricity on the carbon is to be ascribed to heat, or to some unknown quality, M. Despretz has not yet ascertained.

A very fine specimen of the Great Ant-Eater (*Myrmecophaga jubata*) has just reached this country alive from Brazil, and is being exhibited in an obscure show-room at No. 17, Broad Street, St. Giles. It is very richly striped, and has a most remarkable tail, like a broad hairy brush fan. The claws are long, and bent inwards, like those of the Sloth. The head is long and tapering, without teeth, and the creature rapidly protrudes and retracts a curious long filiform tongue, which is lubricated with a glutinous fluid for the capture of ants. The animal is about the size of a large pig or Newfoundland dog, and is, we believe, the first of its kind that has been brought to Europe alive.

A French physician, Dr. Burg by name, alleges that copper and some other metals is a preservative against the cholera; and in proof of it he declares, no doubt on good authority, that in the different visitations of the cholera in France, the men employed in copper and iron works, and especially in the former, entirely escaped any attack of the disease, though it caused devastation around them. The same fact, he adds, was observed in Russia, in Germany, and in other countries. He recommends, we understand, the wearing of a sheet of copper round the breast; and we hear that he will shortly arrive in Newcastle, by direction of the French Government, to try his system. The Academy of Medicine in Paris is now engaged in examining the communications he has made to it on the subject.

From a letter published this week in 'The Times,' by Mr. Lowe, the honorary secretary of the Lawson Observatory fund, it appears that, at the time of his writing, the sum of 6800*l.* had been promised, including 2000*l.* from Government, and 1050*l.* from Mr. Lawson, leaving 3200*l.* to be still subscribed. The instruments are valued at 10,000*l.*, and Mr. Lawson's offer is to establish the Observatory at Nottingham, provided another 10,000*l.* is raised before the 1st of October, for the maintenance of the institution. We hope that the opportunity for establishing this observatory may not pass away, and that the committee may have to announce the success of their efforts to secure an object of national as well as local importance.

Paganini, who died so many years back, has not yet been buried. The clergy of Nice refused him Christian sepulture, because he neglected to receive the sacrament in his last moments. His nephew and heir applied to the ecclesiastical court for an order for them to proceed to the burial. After immense delay, his application was rejected. He therefore appealed to the archiepiscopal court of Genoa. After more long delay, a judgment was given, quite recently, to the effect that the interment should take place in the ordinary cemetery. But against this decision, the ecclesiastical party has presented an appeal to a superior jurisdiction, and Heaven only knows when it will be decided. In the meantime the remains of the great violinist are left in an unconsecrated garden.

The town of Grenoble, in France, is endeavouring to raise funds for periodical exhibitions of the Fine Arts in that city, and some other provincial

towns are preparing to imitate the example. Could not the same sort of thing be done in England? It would spread the refining taste of the arts amongst our population, and would enlarge the circle of purchasers of artistic productions.

Another comet was discovered on the night of the 11th inst., by M. C. Bruhns, of the Berlin observatory, near the stars κ and ι of Ursa Major. At 1h. 12m. after midnight its right ascension was $126^{\circ} 59'$, and its declination $44^{\circ} 52'$ north; the former was increasing at the daily rate of $1^{\circ} 27'$, and the latter diminishing about half a degree.

The confession of Balthazar Gerard, the assassin of William the Taciturn, Prince of Orange, in 1584, has just been added to the archives of Belgium. It is a very interesting historical document. It is entirely in the handwriting of the murderer, occupies three pages, contains few erasures, and gives a detailed account of the motives of his crime, and of the measures he took for executing it.

Mr. W. Brown, M.P. for South Lancashire, has placed at the disposal of the Town Council of Liverpool the munificent gift of 6000*l.* for the erection of a Free Library, if the Corporation will provide a suitable site, in a central part of the town, near St. George's Hall. The inadequacy of accommodation at the present reading-room and library in Duke-street has been much felt, while the success of the experiment renders the establishment of a more commodious free library a desirable boon to the community. Much gratitude is felt for the generous and liberal proposal of Mr. Brown.

A M. Duperré, the senior dramatic author of France, died recently at an advanced age. He was the author of thirteen pieces, some of which were not without merit; though all are now forgotten.

An observatory is about to be built at Utrecht. The King of Holland laid the first stone of it a few days ago.

A Congress of History and Archæology is now being held at Nuremberg, under the presidency of H.R.H. the Duke John of Saxony.

There is a talk of establishing a 'Photographic Museum' in Paris,—i.e. a collection of photographic designs of all the principal public buildings, sites, views, &c., of all France.

Some paintings by Giotto, covered with white-wash, have just been discovered in the Bardi chapel at Florence. The subject of them is incidents in the life of Saint Francis.

A bronze statue of Francis I. is to be placed in the court-yard of the Louvre at Paris.

On dit that an opera by Liszt, and one of the Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha's, are to be brought out at the Théâtre Lyrique at Paris.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Feb. 25th.—The Duke of Northumberland, K.G., F.R.S., President, in the chair. John Wilson, Esq., F.R.S.E., &c., 'On Ploughs and Ploughing, Ancient and Modern.' Without attempting to discuss the general question of scientific farming, on one point, at all events, all will agree, that the application of science to the improvement of machines and implements has been productive of great benefit to agriculture. Just now two circumstances in particular combine to affect the farmer's calling,—the competition of foreign produce in our markets, and the diminishing supply of labour due to emigration. To meet these successfully, production must be increased and labour economised. These ends must be obtained either by the perfection of present processes or the substitution of others, for which the application of improved machines and implements offers the readiest means. The plough was selected as the subject of the lecture, firstly, because it is commonly recognised as the symbol of agriculture,—and secondly, because, during the long period of its history, it has, until quite recently, undergone fewer changes than most other implements of such universal use. The object of Agriculture is the conversion of mineral into organized matter, through the agency of the plants which she cultivates. The soil is the factory in which these changes princi-

pally take place;—and one of the conditions necessary is contact with the atmosphere. To effect this, mechanical means are needed to open up and divide the soil; and the plough was soon found to be a more efficient tool than either the pick or the spade, which were limited to manual labour. Ploughs are mentioned in the early pages of our sacred history; indeed we have there described the skeleton upon which all ploughs, past and present, have been framed. The ancient Greeks and Romans paid great attention to farming, and especially to implements and their application. The plough, then as now, occupied a prominent place, and much practical information in respect to its uses has been handed down to us. Of the Greeks, the principal writers on agricultural matters, are Hesiod, Xenophon, Homer, Theocritus, and Theophrastus. The Roman authors are more numerous and their works better known; amongst them we may cite Cato, Virgil, Columella, Varro, Palladius, and Pliny. Many of their precepts are valuable, and would compare very successfully with the practice of the present day. They held it to be bad farming to plough when the ground was wet, '*Lutosam terram ne tangito*,' another maxim was never to plough with an unequal furrow, '*Sulco vario ne ares*;'—and a third was never to plough with a crooked furrow,—he who did so was said to prevaricate, '*Arator nisi incurvus prevaricator*.' This expression was afterwards used in the forum, and the same meaning attached to it as in the present day. Let these maxims be posted in our market places, and no farmers who read would gainsay them; and yet how often do we see them disregarded in our fields. Oxen were generally used, and always harnessed two abreast, and the quantity of work done in a yoking was from 1 jugerum (= .618 of an acre) to 1½ jugerum. Pliny mentions having seen in Egypt ploughs drawn by cows, their calves skipping by their sides, and in more than one instance a team composed of an ass and an old woman harnessed together. The Roman plough was minutely described by Virgil, and closely resembles the ploughs used in Valencia and some parts of France at the present day. In the *Vetusta Monumenta* (vol. vi., see Bayeux Tapestry, A.D. 1032) drawings may be seen of wheel ploughs worked by two horses abreast. Much information on the condition of the plough in the mediæval period may be obtained from the works of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert (1532),—'Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and a farmer of forty years' standing,' of Heresbach (1570),—of Walter Blith, whose '*Improver Improved*' appeared in 1652—of Hartlib (1652), and of Gervase Markham (1631), from which we learn, that turn-rest ploughs were commonly used in Kent, that the subsoil plough was then known, and that on many of the light lands in Norfolk and Suffolk it was the practice, by using light ploughs with one horse, to get over two and three acres in the course of the day. The great improvements in the plough took place in the latter half of the eighteenth century, and are due to Smail, Wilkie, Finlaison, and others—who introduced iron mould-boards of a different shape, and generally improved the mechanics of the implement. Ploughs now are made either with one or with two wheels, and these are known as 'wheel-ploughs,' or they are made without any wheels at all, in which case they are termed 'swing-ploughs.' The former are generally used in the southern and the latter in the northern districts. In the use of the one, 'more judgment than skill' is required—in the other 'more skill than judgment;' with the wheel-plough, more depends upon the implement and less upon the man—with the swing-plough, more depends upon the man and less upon the implement. With either, the work is necessarily less perfectly done than with the spade, and the great desideratum of the day is to contrive a machine that shall have the efficiency of the spade and the capability of the plough. Many attempts have been made, but, until recently, without anything like successful results. Amongst the most prominent of them is the digging machine exhibited in Hyde Park by Thompson—where also was shown a working model of another digging machine

by Parsons, which exhibited much ingenuity and combined many desirable points. This has since undergone improvements in various details, and is intended to be rendered locomotive. A machine for effecting the same purpose, patented by Roberts, has been tried, and is likely, through the assistance of steam, to be brought to bear successfully as a cultivator. Steam traction ploughs are by no means new. Some eighteen years ago one was exhibited at the Highland Society's Meeting at Dumfries, and Lord Willoughby D'Eresby has constantly employed one, arranged by himself, on his Lincolnshire estates. The Marquis of Tweeddale, whose name is so well and so honourably known in connexion with agricultural improvements, has recently adapted a plough, or rather frame of ploughs, for carrying out his system of deep ploughing. In this case two engines are employed, one at either end of the field, the plough-frame travelling by means of traction-chains between them, and doing the work, some twelve to fifteen inches deep, in a most efficient manner. There appears to be a question as to whether, all things considered, there is much gained by the application of steam thus limited to the traction merely of the implement. In most cases where steam has successfully supplanted labour, it has demanded that the old processes be laid aside, and new ones, suited to the advanced requirements, be adopted. The plough, itself universally acknowledged to be a defective implement, has no claims to exception to this rule, and certainly the small amount of success attending the steam traction ploughs would be evidence in favour of it. At attempt has been made by Usher, of Edinburgh, to construct a machine that shall, by one operation, satisfy all the requirements of cultivation. This has been tried in the field with favourable results, and it certainly possesses more of the elements of success than any other that has hitherto been brought out. The old plough is thrown aside, and only the share and mould-board made use of; some three to six rows of them are arranged round a large cylinder which is attached to a locomotive engine. When at work in the field the power is applied to this cylinder, which, by its revolution, drives the ploughs (or other instruments, as the case may be) into the soil, and thus acts as the propelling agent to the whole machine. The soil is left in a broken condition, as by the fork or spade, and arrangements exist by which the three operations of moving the soil, sowing, and covering in the seed are done at the same time. It travels at the rate of three miles an hour—to nine acres a-day, or, allowing for turning, stoppages, &c., say seven acres, which it has done in its various trials, for an expenditure of seventeen and sixpence, or two and sixpence per acre. It travels well on common roads, ascending acclivities of one in ten, and turning round in a circle of sixteen feet diameter, and is adapted for any other purpose to which steam power is applied. Let us see what would be the result of the substitution of the steam plough for our present systems of ploughing. In England, taking Caird's estimate, there are 14,000,000 acres in tillage; these are ploughed certainly once every year. The cost of the operation averages at least ten shillings per acre—thus giving a total of 7,000,000*l.* per annum. This first machine of Usher does the work better than by the plough for two and sixpence an acre, or at seventy-five per cent. less cost. The saving would consequently be about 5,250,000*l.* per annum. The labour of 50,000 men and 100,000 horses required for this one operation would be replaced, and a saving in the consumption of corn effected to at least 1,500,000 quarters, which would be thus rendered available for the more direct wants of the community.

KILKENNY AND SOUTH EAST OF IRELAND ARCHEOLOGICAL.—*July 19th.*—Dr. Cane in the chair. Eighteen new members were proposed and admitted. Several donations to the Museum and Library were then laid on the table, amongst which were a number of rare and interesting coins, presented by the Rev. James Graves. The speci-

fications for the works for preserving Jerpoint Abbey were announced as having been completed, and tenders had been invited from contractors. The titles of the papers read at the meeting are—'A Letter on the Kerry Round Towers,' from Mr. Windele; 'On Chinese Seals,' by the Rev. Thomas R. Brown, of Oundle; 'On an Irish Inscription at Killamory,' by Mr. John Dunne; 'On a Discovery in a Rath,' by W. D'Alton, Esq.; a paper 'On the Ulster Creaghts,' by Mr. Prendergast; a paper 'On the Geographical Distribution of Cromleachs,' by Lieut.-Col. C. H. Smith; 'On a Pagan Cemetery on Ballan Hill, Co. Carlow,' by the Rev. James Graves; 'On a Fictile Vessel found at Columbkil,' by Mr. Prim; 'On Ancient Modes of Punishment,' by Mr. O'Shaughnessy; and 'On the Celebrated Holy Cross Monument,' by Mr. T. L. Cooke.

Sept. 7th.—The Marquis of Ormonde in the chair. The names of sixteen new candidates for admission to membership were announced by the Secretary, and admitted accordingly. The presentations to the Museum and Library were very numerous. Amongst the former were a series of thirty-three rubbings of English monumental brasses and slabs, presented by the Marquis of Ormonde, on the part of his brother-in-law, Edward H. Paget, Esq. There were also several curious coins and tokens presented by various donors. The donations to the library included some valuable books, and form an important addition to the Society's collection. Several beautiful drawings of objects of antiquity were exhibited on the occasion of the meeting. The following are the titles of the papers read:—'On a Chinese Seal,' 'On a Runic Ogham Inscription,' and 'On the Glounaghlough and Burnfort Ogham Inscriptions,' by the Rev. T. R. Brown, of Oundle; 'On the Rubbings of Monumental Brasses,' presented by Mr. Paget; 'On the still much-vexed question of the supposed Monument at Holy Cross Abbey,' by the Rev. A. B. Rowan; 'On the Arms of the Tribes of Israel,' by Mr. O'Daly; an interesting paper 'On Irish Folk Lore,' by Mr. Hackett, of Middleton; and 'On Killamory Church,' by Mr. J. Dunne.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Newwied, Sept. 19th.

WHILST strolling in the grounds of Prince Maximilian in this delightful spot, immortalised by Turner's charming drawing in the possession of Mr. Windus, it has occurred to me to recommend the tourist to try, for variety's sake, the route hither *viâ* Holland. It is true that four-and-twenty hours' steaming on the "majestic Rhine," before a glimpse of scenery comparable to the Thames presents itself, is enough to deter the seeker of pleasant walks and vine-clad mountains, to say nothing of twenty hours' tumbling and tossing in the Channel; but the Dutch are a peculiar people—quaint, cleanly, and antiquated, and a few days' sojourn in their curious pile-built towns and bedeyked country is a thing to interest. The whole extent of land between Rotterdam and Amsterdam is a watery meadow, devoted to the pasture of oxen, which are exported almost daily in vessels trading to London, Hull, and Newcastle, yet it is studded at intervals with towns of great contrasting interest. Rotterdam, with its broad canals, overhanging drawbridges, and picturesque shipping, looking as clean-painted and as shining as if the planks from deck to keel were scrubbed with soap and water every morning, reminds one of London such as we see it represented in pictures a hundred years ago. The large-gabled red-brick houses, with their long windows and antiquated doors, ornamented externally with festoons of many-patterned chains from post to post, we have often seen in Hogarth's street pictures; and the hackney coaches are still swung and horsed after the lumbering model of my Lord Mayor's gold coach. In the market square is a fine statue of the great Rotterdam scholar, favourite of our Henry VIII., and subsequent teacher of Greek at Cambridge—Erasmus. Passing to the railway, of which the station is a particularly light and elegant structure, the traveller leaves at a good comfortable

pace to the sound of the horn. The train has a guard at each end, dressed, Robin-Hood-like, with a neat bugle and tassels, and an echo from one to the other is the signal for starting. The first station, Schiedam, may be known by the innumerable windmills in its vicinity, used by the Hollands distilleries; and the second, Delft, is well known for its manufacture of a peculiar rough kind of crockery. The train next stops at the seat of Dutch aristocracy, the Hague, and here the tourist should alight to see the King's Palace and Park, and House in the Wood, while the *table d'hôte* at the Vieux Doelen, or Hotel de Belle-Vue, will give a fair idea of the grandeur and antiquity of Dutch cookery. The picture-gallery contains some choice examples of the Flemish school. Here may be seen the finest gems of Mieris and Gerard Douw, Paul Potter's *chef d'œuvre*, 'The Bull,' and Savery's 'Orpheus Charming the Beasts,' in which Professor Owen discovered one of the most valuable links in the chain of pictorial evidence of the existence of the Dodo. Holland has, however, lost several fine pictures during the last few years; we missed the fine Rembrandts and the Raffaele drawings that formerly enriched the palace of the Prince of Orange; and the choice collection of M. Verstolk van Soelen, sold in London a year or two since, has not been replaced by any other. Leyden, the next town of importance on the line, has a totally different aspect, being an academic city, with a valuable natural history museum. The eminent ornithologist, Temminck, still presides here, and many specimens of birds, shells, &c., from islands in the East, with which the Dutch have almost an exclusive intercourse, attract the eye of foreigners. The Dutch are not, however, the naturalists they were in the time of old Rumphius of Amboyna. They have worked up the Greenland and Spitzbergen fauna pretty well, but have left the tropics to other hands. Haarlem, a few miles farther north, is chiefly noticeable for its park and bulb gardens. The great sand-hills, which formerly marked the limit of the Zuyder Zee, afford rare soil for such plants as tulips, hyacinths, and the like, and several gardeners of eminence have come to be established in this locality. On entering Amsterdam the tourist is struck at once by the busy quaintness and bustle of the people, the strange irregularity of the buildings, and the lively marketing that is going on everywhere. Most of the better class of the peasantry still preserve the fashion of wearing metal skull shields of tin or brass beneath the clean lace caps, turning out on either side of the face in a large square ornament nearly as large and not much unlike a curtain-band. Passing the marbled Stadt House we were amused at hearing the old clock playing on its numerous bells Papageno's well-known bell-song in Mozart's *Zauberflöte*. Those who would avoid much of the flat scenery of the Rhine, may at this point take the rail to Utrecht, and on to Arnhem, and there embark. A day's steaming will bring the tourist to Cologne, and here the glories of the 'exulting and abounding river' begin. They are, however, too well known to need description. The group of the Siebengebirge, which comes into near view on leaving Bonn, opens up a panorama of continuous variety and beauty unsurpassed in any locality in Europe; and the ruin on the summit of the Drachenfels, the principal of these, calls up pleasantly to the memory the delightful verses of Byron:—

"The castled crag of Drachenfels
Frowns o'er the wide and winding Rhine,
Whose breast of waters broadly swells
Between the banks which bear the vine;
And hills all rich with blossom'd trees,
And fields which prom se corn and wine,
And scatter'd cities crowning these,
Whose far white walls along them shine,
Have strew'd a scene which I should see
With double joy wert thou with me."

"And peasant girls with deep blue eyes,
And hands which offer early flowers,
Walk smiling o'er this paradise;
Above, the frequent feudal towers
Through green leaves lift their walls of gray,
And many a rock which steeply lowers,
And noble arch in proud decay,
Look o'er this vale of vintage-bowers;
But one thing want these banks of Rhine,—
Thy gentle hand to clasp in mine!"

of Sciences at Paris, in a recent meeting of that body, detailed a series of experiments to which he had subjected some carbon coming from the calcination of sugar. He caused an electric pile, in which some platina wires were extended, to act on the carbon without intermission for the space of a month, and he then found the wires covered with a slight powder, which, on examination by a microscope, was seen to contain black and white crystals of the octahedral form. This powder, being experimented on, was found to possess the qualities that have heretofore exclusively appertained to the powder of diamonds. This is the nearest approach to the production of real diamonds which has yet been made, and even if it should not be found possible to carry it further, the making of the diamond dust will be of considerable commercial importance. Whether the action of the electricity on the carbon is to be ascribed to heat, or to some unknown quality, M. Despretz has not yet ascertained.

A very fine specimen of the Great Ant-Eater (*Myrmecophaga jubata*) has just reached this country alive from Brazil, and is being exhibited in an obscure show-room at No. 17, Broad Street, St. Giles. It is very richly striped, and has a most remarkable tail, like a broad hairy brush fan. The claws are long, and bent inwards, like those of the Sloth. The head is long and tapering, without teeth, and the creature rapidly protrudes and retracts a curious long filiform tongue, which is lubricated with a glutinous fluid for the capture of ants. The animal is about the size of a large pig or Newfoundland dog, and is, we believe, the first of its kind that has been brought to Europe alive.

A French physician, Dr. Burg by name, alleges that copper and some other metals is a preservative against the cholera; and in proof of it he declares, no doubt on good authority, that in the different visitations of the cholera in France, the men employed in copper and iron works, and especially in the former, entirely escaped any attack of the disease, though it caused devastation around them. The same fact, he adds, was observed in Russia, in Germany, and in other countries. He recommends, we understand, the wearing of a sheet of copper round the breast; and we hear that he will shortly arrive in Newcastle, by direction of the French Government, to try his system. The Academy of Medicine in Paris is now engaged in examining the communications he has made to it on the subject.

From a letter published this week in 'The Times,' by Mr. Lowe, the honorary secretary of the Lawson Observatory fund, it appears that, at the time of his writing, the sum of 6800*l.* had been promised, including 2000*l.* from Government, and 1050*l.* from Mr. Lawson, leaving 3200*l.* to be still subscribed. The instruments are valued at 10,000*l.*, and Mr. Lawson's offer is to establish the Observatory at Nottingham, provided another 10,000*l.* is raised before the 1st of October, for the maintenance of the institution. We hope that the opportunity for establishing this observatory may not pass away, and that the committee may have to announce the success of their efforts to secure an object of national as well as local importance.

Paganini, who died so many years back, has not yet been buried. The clergy of Nice refused him Christian sepulture, because he neglected to receive the sacrament in his last moments. His nephew and heir applied to the ecclesiastical court for an order for them to proceed to the burial. After immense delay, his application was rejected. He therefore appealed to the archiepiscopal court of Genoa. After more long delay, a judgment was given, quite recently, to the effect that the interment should take place in the ordinary cemetery. But against this decision, the ecclesiastical party has presented an appeal to a superior jurisdiction, and Heaven only knows when it will be decided. In the meantime the remains of the great violinist are left in an unconsecrated garden.

The town of Grenoble, in France, is endeavouring to raise funds for periodical exhibitions of the Fine Arts in that city, and some other provincial

towns are preparing to imitate the example. Could not the same sort of thing be done in England? It would spread the refining taste of the arts amongst our population, and would enlarge the circle of purchasers of artistic productions.

Another comet was discovered on the night of the 11th inst., by M. C. Bruhns, of the Berlin observatory, near the stars ϵ and ι of Ursa Major. At 1*h.* 12*m.* after midnight its right ascension was 126° 59', and its declination 44° 52' north; the former was increasing at the daily rate of 1° 27', and the latter diminishing about half a degree.

The confession of Balthazar Gerard, the assassin of William the Taciturn, Prince of Orange, in 1584, has just been added to the archives of Belgium. It is a very interesting historical document. It is entirely in the handwriting of the murderer, occupies three pages, contains few erasures, and gives a detailed account of the motives of his crime, and of the measures he took for executing it.

Mr. W. Brown, M.P. for South Lancashire, has placed at the disposal of the Town Council of Liverpool the munificent gift of 6000*l.* for the erection of a Free Library, if the Corporation will provide a suitable site, in a central part of the town, near St. George's Hall. The inadequacy of accommodation at the present reading-room and library in Duke-street has been much felt, while the success of the experiment renders the establishment of a more commodious free library a desirable boon to the community. Much gratitude is felt for the generous and liberal proposal of Mr. Brown.

A M. Duperche, the senior dramatic author of France, died recently at an advanced age. He was the author of thirteen pieces, some of which were not without merit; though all are now forgotten.

An observatory is about to be built at Utrecht. The King of Holland laid the first stone of it a few days ago.

A Congress of History and Archæology is now being held at Nuremberg, under the presidency of H.K.H. the Duke John of Saxony.

There is a talk of establishing a 'Photographic Museum' in Paris,—i.e. a collection of photographic designs of all the principal public buildings, sites, views, &c., of France.

Some paintings by Giotto, covered with white-wash, have just been discovered in the Bardi chapel at Florence. The subject of them is incidents in the life of Saint Francis.

A bronze statue of Francis I. is to be placed in the court-yard of the Louvre at Paris.

On dit that an opera by Liszt, and one of the Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha's, are to be brought out at the Théâtre Lyrique at Paris.

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by Parsons, which exhibited much ingenuity and combined many desirable points. This has since undergone improvements in various details, and is intended to be rendered locomotive. A machine for effecting the same purpose, patented by Roberts, has been tried, and is likely, through the assistance of steam, to be brought to bear successfully as a cultivator. Steam traction ploughs are by no means new. Some eighteen years ago one was exhibited at the Highland Society's Meeting at Dumfries, and Lord Willoughby D'Eresby has constantly employed one, arranged by himself, on his Lincolnshire estates. The Marquis of Tweeddale, whose name is so well and so honourably known in connexion with agricultural improvements, has recently adapted a plough, or rather frame of ploughs, for carrying out his system of deep ploughing. In this case two engines are employed, one at either end of the field, the plough-frame travelling by means of traction-chains between them, and doing the work, some twelve to fifteen inches deep, in a most efficient manner. There appears to be a question as to whether, all things considered, there is much gained by the application of steam thus limited to the traction merely of the implement. In most cases where steam has successfully supplanted labour, it has demanded that the old processes be laid aside, and new ones, suited to the advanced requirements, be adopted. The plough, itself universally acknowledged to be a defective implement, has no claims to exception to this rule, and certainly the small amount of success attending the steam traction ploughs would be evidence in favour of it. At attempt has been made by Usher, of Edinburgh, to construct a machine that shall, by one operation, satisfy all the requirements of cultivation. This has been tried in the field with favourable results, and it certainly possesses more of the elements of success than any other that has hitherto been brought out. The old plough is thrown aside, and only the share and mould-board made use of; some three to six rows of them are arranged round a large cylinder which is attached to a locomotive engine. When at work in the field the power is applied to this cylinder, which, by its revolution, drives the ploughs (or other instruments, as the case may be) into the soil, and thus acts as the propelling agent to the whole machine. The soil is left in a broken condition, as by the fork or spade, and arrangements exist by which the three operations of moving the soil, sowing, and covering in the seed are done at the same time. It travels at the rate of three miles an hour—to nine acres a-day, or, allowing for turning, stoppages, &c., say seven acres, which it has done in its various trials, for an expenditure of seven-teen and sixpence, or two and sixpence per acre. It travels well on common roads, ascending acclivities of one in ten, and turning round in a circle of sixteen feet diameter, and is adapted for any other purpose to which steam power is applied. Let us see what would be the result of the substitution of the steam plough for our present systems of ploughing. In England, taking Caird's estimate, there are 14,000,000 acres in tillage; these are ploughed certainly once every year. The cost of the operation averages at least ten shillings per acre—thus giving a total of 7,000,000l. per annum. This first machine of Usher does the work better than by the plough for two and sixpence an acre, or at seventy-five per cent. less cost. The saving would consequently be about 5,250,000l. per annum. The labour of 50,000 men and 100,000 horses required for this one operation would be replaced, and a saving in the consumption of corn effected to at least 1,500,000 quarters, which would be thus rendered available for the more direct wants of the community.

KILKENNY AND SOUTH EAST OF IRELAND ARCHEOLOGICAL.—July 19th.—Dr. Cane in the chair. Eighteen new members were proposed and admitted. Several donations to the Museum and Library were then laid on the table, amongst which were a number of rare and interesting coins, presented by the Rev. James Graves. The speci-

fications for the works for preserving Jerpoint Abbey were announced as having been completed, and tenders had been invited from contractors. The titles of the papers read at the meeting are—'A Letter on the Kerry Round Towers,' from Mr. Windele; 'On Chinese Seals,' by the Rev. Thomas R. Brown, of Oundle; 'On an Irish Inscription at Killamory,' by Mr. John Dunne; 'On a Discovery in a Rath,' by W. D'Alton, Esq.; a paper 'On the Ulster Creaghts,' by Mr. Prendergast; a paper 'On the Geographical Distribution of Cromleachs,' by Lieut.-Col. C. H. Smith; 'On a Pagan Cemetery on Ballan Hill, Co. Carlow,' by the Rev. James Graves; 'On a Fictile Vessel found at Columbkil,' by Mr. Prim; 'On Ancient Modes of Punishment,' by Mr. O'Shaughnessy; and 'On the Celebrated Holy Cross Monument,' by Mr. T. L. Cooke.

Sept. 17th.—The Marquis of Ormonde in the chair. The names of sixteen new candidates for admission to membership were announced by the Secretary, and admitted accordingly. The presentations to the Museum and Library were very numerous. Amongst the former were a series of thirty-three rubbings of English monumental brasses and slabs, presented by the Marquis of Ormonde, on the part of his brother-in-law, Edward H. Paget, Esq. There were also several curious coins and tokens presented by various donors. The donations to the library included some valuable books, and form an important addition to the Society's collection. Several beautiful drawings of objects of antiquity were exhibited on the occasion of the meeting. The following are the titles of the papers read:—'On a Chinese Seal,' 'On a Runic Ogham Inscription,' and 'On the Glounaglogh and Burnfort Ogham Inscriptions,' by the Rev. T. R. Brown, of Oundle; 'On the Rubbings of Monumental Brasses,' presented by Mr. Paget; 'On the still much-vexed question of the supposed Monument at Holy Cross Abbey,' by the Rev. A. B. Rowan; 'On the Arms of the Tribes of Israel,' by Mr. O'Daly; an interesting paper 'On Irish Folk Lore,' by Mr. Hackett, of Middleton; and 'On Killamory Church,' by Mr. J. Dunne.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Newied, Sept. 19th.

WHILST strolling in the grounds of Prince Maximilian in this delightful spot, immortalised by Turner's charming drawing in the possession of Mr. Windus, it has occurred to me to recommend the tourist to try, for variety's sake, the route hither *vid* Holland. It is true that four-and-twenty hours' steaming on the "majestic Rhine," before a glimpse of scenery comparable to the Thames presents itself, is enough to deter the seeker of pleasant vales and vine-clad mountains, to say nothing of twenty hours' tumbling and tossing in the Channel; but the Dutch are a peculiar people—quaint, cleanly, and antiquated, and a few days' sojourn in their curious pile-built towns and beddyked country is a thing to interest. The whole extent of land between Rotterdam and Amsterdam is a watery meadow, devoted to the pasture of oxen, which are exported almost daily in vessels trading to London, Hull, and Newcastle, yet it is studded at intervals with towns of great contrasting interest. Rotterdam, with its broad canals, overhanging drawbridges, and picturesque shipping, looking as clean-painted and as shining as if the planks from deck to keel were scrubbed with soap and water every morning, reminds one of London such as we see it represented in pictures a hundred years ago. The large-gabled red-brick houses, with their long windows and antiquated doors, ornamented externally with festoons of many-patterned chains from post to post, we have often seen in Hogarth's street pictures; and the hackney coaches are still swung and horsed after the lumbering model of my Lord Mayor's gold coach. In the market square is a fine statue of the great Rotterdam scholar, favourite of our Henry VIII., and subsequent teacher of Greek at Cambridge—Erasmus. Passing to the railway, of which the station is a particularly light and elegant structure, the traveller leaves at a good comfortable

pace to the sound of the horn. The train has a guard at each end, dressed, Robin-Hood-like, with a neat bugle and tassels, and an echo from one to the other is the signal for starting. The first station, Schiedam, may be known by the innumerable windmills in its vicinity, used by the Hollands distilleries; and the second, Delft, is well known for its manufacture of a peculiar rough kind of crockery. The train next stops at the seat of Dutch aristocracy, the Hague, and here the tourist should alight to see the King's Palace and Park, and House in the Wood, while the *table d'hôte* at the Vieux Doelen, or Hotel de Belle-Vue, will give a fair idea of the grandeur and antiquity of Dutch cookery. The picture-gallery contains some choice examples of the Flemish school. Here may be seen the finest gems of Meieris and Gerard Douw, Paul Potter's *chef d'œuvre*, 'The Bull,' and Savery's 'Orpheus Charming the Beasts,' in which Professor Owen discovered one of the most valuable links in the chain of pictorial evidence of the existence of the Dodo. Holland has, however, lost several fine pictures during the last few years; we missed the fine Rembrandts and the Raffaele drawings that formerly enriched the palace of the Prince of Orange; and the choice collection of M. Verstolk van Soelen, sold in London a year or two since, has not been replaced by any other. Leyden, the next town of importance on the line, has a totally different aspect, being an academic city, with a valuable natural history museum. The eminent ornithologist, Temminck, still presides here, and many specimens of birds, shells, &c., from islands in the East, with which the Dutch have almost an exclusive intercourse, attract the eye of foreigners. The Dutch are not, however, the naturalists they were in the time of old Rumphius of Amboyna. They have worked up the Greenland and Spitzbergen fauna pretty well, but have left the tropics to other hands. Haarlem, a few miles farther north, is chiefly noticeable for its park and bulb gardens. The great sand-hills, which formerly marked the limit of the Zuyder Zee, afford rare soil for such plants as tulips, hyacinths, and the like, and several gardeners of eminence have come to be established in this locality. On entering Amsterdam the tourist is struck at once by the busy quaintness and bustle of the people, the strange irregularity of the buildings, and the lively marketing that is going on everywhere. Most of the better class of the peasantry still preserve the fashion of wearing metal skull shields of tin or brass beneath the clean lace caps, turning out on either side of the face in a large square ornament nearly as large and not much unlike a curtain-band. Passing the marbled Stadt House we were amused at hearing the old clock playing on its numerous bells Papageno's well-known bell-song in Mozart's *Seufferflöte*. Those who would avoid much of the flat scenery of the Rhine, may at this point take the rail to Utrecht, and on to Arnheim, and there embark. A day's steaming will bring the tourist to Cologne, and here the glories of the 'exulting and abounding river' begin. They are, however, too well known to need description. The group of the Siebengebirge, which comes into near view on leaving Bonn, opens up a panorama of continuous variety and beauty unsurpassed in any locality in Europe; and the ruin on the summit of the Drachenfels, the principal of these, calls up pleasantly to the memory the delightful verses of Byron:—

"The castled crag of Drachenfels
Frowns o'er the wide and winding Rhine,
Whose breast of waters broadly swells
Between the banks which bear the vine;
And hills all rich with blossom'd trees,
And fields which promiscuously corn and wine,
And scatter'd cities crowning these,
Whose far white walls along them shine,
Have strew'd a scene which I should see
With double joy wert thou with me.

"And peasant girls with deep blue eyes,
And hands which offer early flowers,
Walk smiling o'er this paradise;
Above, the frequent feudal towers
Through green leaves lift their walls of gray,
And many a rock which steeply lowers,
And noble arch in proud decay.
Look o'er this vale of vintage-bowers;
But one thing want these banks of Rhine,—
Thy gentle hand to clasp in mine!

"The river nobly foams and flows,
The charm of this enchanted ground,
And all its thousand turns disclose
Some fresher beauty varying round:
The haughtiest breast its wish might bound
Through life to dwell delighted here;
Nor could on earth a spot be found
To nature and to me so dear,
Could thy dear eyes in following mine
Still sweeten more these banks of Rhine!"

Paris, September 21.

MADAME SAND has again braved the dangers of the stage by bringing out a new play at the Théâtre du Gymnase. It is called the *Pressoir*. Her object seems to have been to give a simple, unadorned picture of village life, as her scene is laid in Burgundy; her personages are peasants, and precisely such peasants as we have met with more than once in books and plays, and especially in her own admirable novels; her plot is without any pretension to originality, as it turns on the Damon and Pythias-like friendship of two young peasants, their love for the same female, and their desire to sacrifice it for the happiness of the other; whilst as to incidents they are altogether wanting, or at least are not more dramatic than the fixing of a machine for crushing grapes (*le pressoir*), and peasant-matters of that kind. Thus the play, judged by stage rules, is by no means a remarkable one; and besides, it is in parts overlaid with talk. But notwithstanding all its faults it contains literary merit of a high order, and there are a freshness and a truth in it which contrast favourably with the rapid, common-place semi-indecent vaudevilles and *soi-disant* comedies which are served up night after night with unwearied pertinacity at other houses. In parts, too, it has the power of moving women to tears, and of creating emotion even in callous men—and this is a great thing. I observe with regret that amongst the play-writing fraternity there is a strong disposition to run down George Sand as a dramatist; and that the newspaper critics—still spiteful at her having, some time ago, said some sharp and rather contemptuous things of them—press hardly upon her. But the public are more just to the distinguished authoress;—they flock in crowds to her pieces, applaud enthusiastically what is really worthy of admiration, and receive the rest with indulgence. I am not one of those who think Madame Sand destined to obtain as much fame by the stage as she has done by her novels, nor do I think that her later pieces have realised the expectations which she caused us to form by her charming *François le Champi*; but I am humbly of opinion that the public are greatly indebted to her for endeavouring to raise the modern dramatic literature of France from the pitiable state into which it has fallen, compared to what it was thirty or even twenty years ago; and I am sure that a woman who has gained world-wide renown by a series of most remarkable works, should have her dramatic efforts treated, not with *dénigrement*, but with profound respect, by the small *vaudevillistes*, small poets, small novelists, small *feuilletonistes*, and small critics, who form the great bulk of the literary phalanx of France in these degenerate days. It would hardly be fair to leave Madame Sand's play without saying a word of the admirable manner in which it is performed by the really excellent company of the Gymnase. It is only in Paris, and perhaps of all the Paris theatres only at the Gymnase, that so many accomplished performers figure in the same piece, and that each strives, not to set himself above his fellows, but to create a harmonious, polished, perfect *ensemble*.

The Odéon Theatre has reopened for the winter season with a five-act play by Méry, called *Gusman le Brave*. This Gusman was an ancestor of the family to which the present Empress of the French belongs: and the wily Marseilles poet no doubt selected him for his hero as a delicate flattery to her Imperial Majesty—flattery destined to have its reward. His play obtained all that applause which it is now-a-days the regular fashion to accord to every new production, great or small, meritorious or otherwise: but whether or not it will have a long run—*nous verrons*. In Paris there are a score or so literary men who are dreadfully overrated;

and Méry is one of them. He is, according to his own account, poet, *feuilletoniste*, novelist, dramatist, critic, journalist, traveller, *savant*, and if I remember rightly, historian also: but let any one who has waded through his voluminous lucubrations say if he has been able to find in them anything like originality, anything which made him think—anything except pert flippancy and immeasurable presumption,—ornamented, perhaps, with a few scraps of Latin, and set forth in meretricious style. Such men as Méry, by the way, are an example of the immense value of assurance in getting on in the world: had they had the modesty to rate themselves at their real value only, they would have scarcely been known to the public, and perhaps have only just been able to pick up a livelihood by incessant drudgery in the humbler walks of literature; whereas, by proclaiming themselves men of genius, and insisting on being treated as such, they in process of time stand high in public esteem, are courted by publishers, get their own price for all the trash they choose to write, and are lions at dinner-tables and in drawing-rooms.

The still prolific Scribe has had a new *petite comédie* represented at the Imperial Theatre at St. Petersburg. It greatly pleased a highly fashionable audience, and was successful. But Scribe has given great offence to many of his *confrères* at home by having the piece first performed in Russia; some grumble at him, as a bad patriot, for seeking to please what they call Muscovite barbarians; others denounce him for making money abroad when he has amassed an immense fortune, and when, besides, he has more pieces in constant representation at home than anybody else. It may be added, that Rachel is before long to go to St. Petersburg, and that Ponsard's *Honneur et Argent* is to be brought out there. Another theatrical incident is—that the musicians of the Grand Opéra are henceforth to appear in the orchestra in black coats and white cravats. This is only a small reform, to be sure, but it is a commendable one in the most fashionable theatre in Paris. Where ladies of the highest rank go in full dress, it is becoming that *artistes* should not figure in the *debrailé* costume of the *estaminet*, as, truth to speak, many of the musicians of the Paris theatres have too long been accustomed to do. But the reform has caused a good deal of grumbling amongst the persons affected by it. Berlioz, I see, has taken up cudgels in their behalf in the *Journal des Débats*, and has entered into elaborate calculations to prove that the washing, starching, and ironing of white cravats, "even," says he, "if they be made to serve twice or thrice," will dip too deeply into the excessively modest salaries—2*l.* or 3*l.* a month only—of the majority of the musicians.

VARIETIES.

New Steam Ship.—Messrs. Scott Russell and Co. have the contract to build for the Eastern Steam Navigation Company the largest ship ever heard of in the world, which is to carry sufficient fuel for the entire voyage to and from India or Australia. Her length is to be 680 feet; breadth, 83 feet; depth, 58 feet; with screw and paddle engines of aggregate nominal horse-power of 2600. In addition to taking from 4000 to 6000 tons of coals, she will be able to carry 5000 tons measurement of merchandise, and will have 500 cabins for passengers of the highest class, with ample space for poops and lower class passengers. The whole of her bottom, and up to 6 feet above the waterline will be double and of a cellular construction, so that any external injury will not affect the tightness or safety of the ship. The upper deck will also be strengthened on the same principle, so that the ship will be a complete beam, similar to the tube of the Britannia bridge. It will be divided into ten watertight compartments. She will have separate sets of engines, each with several cylinders; and separate boilers will be applied to work the screw, distinct from those working the paddle-wheels, so that, in the event of temporary or even permanent derangement of any one of the engines, or of either the paddle-wheels or the screw, the other engines and propellers would still be available. It is computed

that her great length will enable her to pass through the water at the velocity of fifteen knots an hour, and by the great speed, combined with the absence of stoppages for coaling, the voyage between England and India, *via* the Cape, may be accomplished in thirty or thirty-three days, and between England and Australia in thirty-three or thirty-six days. It is said that the ship will become, by its construction, a beam of sufficient strength to meet any strain to which it can be subjected, and will consist of so many distinct compartments that no local injury, however serious, will affect its buoyancy to any dangerous extent.—*Journ. Soc. Arts.*

American Memorial Windows for Stratford-on-Avon Church.—The suggestion, derived from the recent pilgrimage of some of our Shakespeare-loving Transatlantic cousins to Stratford-on-Avon, that some of the windows, designed originally for stained glass, but never filled, should be devoted to offerings from certain cities in the United States, has, it seems, been referred to the vicar, the Rev. Mr. Harding; and our correspondent, "C. F.," who before addressed us on this subject, now informs us that the vicar very cordially adopts the suggestion of the proposed memorials to the shrine of Shakespeare as offerings by the American nation, and that it has also been warmly approved by others. We hope, therefore, that the proposal will now assume a specific form, by the choice of as many of the most eminent cities in the States as can well be allowed to enjoy the privilege, due justice being also done to our own. A more graceful or affecting tribute to the memory and the world-wide renown of the bard of Avon could not well be offered than this, from the midst of a region which, in his time, was an unknown and savage wilderness, but which his Anglo-Saxon fellow-countrymen have vanquished and have civilized.—*Builder.*

The Last Proposition.—A gentleman in Iowa proposes to keep the cities free from thunder-storms "for so much per year." To most people this offer will be looked upon as preposterous, and yet it is not. We have no doubt whatever that an outlay of 10,000 dollars would keep New York as insulated as a glass table with sealing-wax legs. What a gentleman in Iowa proposes to do for us has already been done for the vine-growers of the south of France. By means of a well-arranged system of lightning-rods, a whole district has been rendered inaccessible to those destructive hail-storms which so frequently follow in the train of thunder-storms. What has been done in France can be done elsewhere. If we can teach lightning to write, we can surely teach it to behave itself.—*Lowell Courier.*

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SUPERINTENDENT—Philip Scoresby, Esq.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

THIS CORPORATION has granted Assurances on Lives for a PERIOD EXCEEDING ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY YEARS, having issued its first Policy on the 7th June, 1721.

Two-thirds, or 66 PER CENT., of the entire profits are given to the Assured.

Policies may be opened under any of the following plans, viz.—

At a low rate of Premium, entitling the Assured, either after the first five years, to an Annual abatement of Premium for the remainder of life, or after payment of the first Premium, to a participation in the ensuing quinquennial Bonus.

The high character which this ancient Corporation has maintained during NEARLY A CENTURY AND A HALF, secures to the Public a full and faithful declaration of profits.

The Corporation bears the whole EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT, thus giving to the Assured, in consequence of the protection afforded by its CORPORATE FUND, advantages equal to those of any system of Mutual Assurance.

Premiums may be paid Yearly, Half-Yearly, or Quarterly.

No entrance fee or other charge beyond the Policy Stamp.

The fees of MEDICAL REFEREES are paid by the Corporation.

A Policy may be effected for as small a sum as £20, and progressively increased up to £50, without the necessity of a new Policy.

Every facility will be given for the transfer or exchange of Policies, or any other suitable arrangement will be made for the convenience of the Assured.

Prospectuses and all other information may be obtained by either a written or personal application to the Actuary or Superintendent of the West End Office.

JOHN LAURENCE, Secretary.

UNITED KINGDOM LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, ESTABLISHED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT IN 1834.

8, WATERLOO PLACE, PALL MALL, LONDON.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS.

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Earl Leven and Melville.
Earl of Norbury.
Earl of Falkland.

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ARTHUR H. HASSELL, Esq., M.D., 8, Bennett Street, St. James's.
The Bonus added to Policies from March, 1834, to December 31, 1847, is as follows:—

Sum Assured.	Time Assured.	Sum added to Policy in 1841.	Sum added to Policy in 1848.	Sum payable at Death.
£ 5000	13 yrs. 10 mo.	£ s. d. 683 6 8	£ s. d. 787 10 0	£ s. d. 6470 16 8
*1000	7 years	—	157 10 6	1157 10 0
500	3 year	—	11 5 0	311 5 0

*EXAMPLE.—At the commencement of the year 1841 a person aged 30, took out a policy for £1000, the annual payment for which is £24 1s. 8d.; in 1847 he had paid in premiums £168 11s. 8d., but the profits being 28 per cent. per annum on the sum insured (which is £22 10s. per annum for each £1000) he had £157 10s. added to the policy, almost as much as the premiums paid.

The premiums, nevertheless, are on the most moderate scale, and only one-half need be paid for the first five years when the insurance is for life. Every information will be afforded on application to the Resident Director.

MANCHESTER AND LONDON LIFE ASSURANCE AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, 77, King Street, Manchester; 454, West Strand, London.

The business of this Association is that of—

1. Life and survivorship risks of every description—civil, naval, or military.

2. Loans on equitable terms, life assurance being contemporaneously effected, on approved personal or any other sufficient security.

3. Assurance upon half-credit scale of rates.

4. Endowments for children, on non-returnable or returnable premiums.

5. Policies payable to bearer.

6. Whole world policies, being perfect securities, payable to bearer or otherwise, at moderate addition rates.

7. Policies without extra rates, to persons in the militia or others, not forfeited if killed in defending the country from invasion.

8. Notices of the assignment of policies registered.

9. Medical referees paid by this Association.

10. Age of life assured admitted on all policies, reasonable proof being given.

11. Stamp duty on policies paid by the Association.

Four-fifths, or 80 per cent., divided every five years amongst all policy holders entitled to profits.

CHARLES HENRY MINCING, Secretary, Manchester.

WILLIAM JAMES STRICKLAND, Actuary and Secretary, London.

ARGUS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

39, Throgmorton Street, Bank, and 14, Pall Mall.

THOMAS FARNCOMB, Esq., Alderman, Chairman.

WILLIAM LEAF, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

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Edward Bates, Esq.

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James Clift, Esq.

John Humphrey, Esq., Ald.

Physician—Dr. Jefferson, 2, Finsbury Square.

Surgeon—W. Coulson, Esq., 2, Frederick's Place, Old Jewry.

Consulting Actuary—Professor Hall, M.A., of King's College.

ADVANTAGES OF ASSURING WITH THIS COMPANY.

The Premiums are on the lowest scale consistent with security. The Assured are protected by an ample subscribed capital—in an Assurance Fund of £350,000 invested on Mortgage and in the Government Stocks—and an income of £77,000 a year.

PREMIUMS TO ASSURE £100. WHOLE TERM.

Age	One Year.	Seven Years.	With Profits.	Without Profits.
20	£ 17 8	£ 19 1	£ 15 10	£ 11 10
30	1 3	1 7	2 5 5	2 0 7
40	1 5	1 6 9	3 0 7	2 14 10
50	1 14	1 19 10	4 6 8	4 0 11
60	3 2 4	3 17 0	6 12 9	6 0 10

MUTUAL BRANCH.

Assurers on the Bonus system are entitled, at the end of five years, and afterwards annually, to participate in four fifths, or 80 per cent. of the profits.

The profit assigned to each policy can be added to the sum assured, applied in reduction of the annual premium, or be received in cash.

At the first division a return of 20 per cent. in cash on the premiums paid was declared; this will allow a permanent reduction in the future annual payments for life of from 24 to 11 per cent., according to the age, and a reversionary increase varying from 66 to 28 per cent. on the premiums, or from 1 to 3 per cent. on the sum assured.

One half of the "whole term" premium may remain on credit for seven years, or one third of the premium may remain for life as debt upon the policy at 5 per cent., or may be paid off at any time without notice.

Claims paid in one month after proofs have been approved.

Loans upon approved security.

The medical officers attend every day at Throgmorton Street at a quarter before two o'clock. E. BATES, Resident Director.

THE INDISPENSIBLE LIFE POLICY COMPANY, No. 72, Lombard Street, London.

TRUSTEES.

Richard Spooner, Esq., M.P.

J. Campbell Renton, Esq.

James Fuller Madox, Esq.

Richard Malins, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

William Wilberforce, Esq.

The POLICIES of this Company being INDISPENSIBLE, (in terms of the Deed of Constitution duly registered), are TRANSFERABLE SECURITIES, their validity not being dependant, as in the case of ordinary Policies, upon the import of past and perhaps forgotten circumstances and office documents. Used as FAMILY PROVISIONS, they relieve the Assured from all doubt and anxiety as to the future.

Owing to this important improvement in the practice of Life Assurance, the progress of this Company has been rapid from the commencement of its business, and is steadily advancing.

ALEXANDER ROBERTSON, Manager.

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7, ST. MARTIN'S PLACE, TRAFALGAR SQUARE, LONDON.

PARTIES desirous of INVESTING MONEY

are requested to examine the Plan of this Institution, by which a high rate of Interest may be obtained with perfect Security.

The Interest is payable in JANUARY and JULY, and for the convenience of Depositors residing at a distance, will, on application, be paid either at the Branch Offices, or through Country Bankers, without expense.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

* Prospectuses free on application.

EQUITY AND LAW LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, No. 26, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London.

Policies in this Office are Indispensible, and the Assured will find all those other advantages and facilities which the more modern practice of Offices has proved may with safety be adopted.

No charge for Policy Stamps.

Persons Assured the present year will participate in the Profits to be divided at the end of 1854.

HOUSEHOLDERS' LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

—This Company offers safe and profitable investment for large or small sums of money. The Funds are lent on the security of Freehold and Leasehold Property, in connection with a Life Assurance, thus superseding Building Societies by providing for the ceasing of the payments in the event of the death of the Borrower.

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A perfect substitute for Copoba will be found in the Copahine Mège, which has been approved by the French Academy of Medicine, and successfully administered in the Paris and London Hospitals. (See 'Lancet' of Nov. 6, 1852, an extract of which will be forwarded on application.) Prepared and sold by G. JOZEAU, French Chemist, 48, Haymarket, London, and 161, Rue Montmartre, Paris; and the principal Chemists of France, England, and the Colonies. The bottle of 100 capsules, 4s. 6d.; of 50 ditto, 2s. 9d.; and the name of GABRIEL JOZEAU printed on the Government stamp.

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